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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Paul C. Granillo, Priest Secretary, Diocese of San Bernardino, California, offered the following prayer:

Good and gracious God, this morning we ask You, our Creator, to bless the United States of America and this, her House of Representatives. Help us to be a people and leaders committed to the self-evident truths proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence, the rights of humanity to life, liberty, and happiness.

Never let us take for granted the honor it is to live in this country, and never let us fail to recognize the responsibility that that honor places upon us.

Help us to use the many blessings bestowed upon our Nation to make the world a better, more peace-filled place. Help us to be generous towards our sisters and brothers who hunger for food, medicine, education, and justice.

Loving God, we give You thanks for the gifts and responsibilities You have bestowed upon each of us this day, most especially for our life, our liberty, and our happiness. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BACA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 206. An act to designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 213. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to the Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.

S. 251. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a water resource feasibility study for the Little Butte/Bear Creek Subbasins in Oregon.

S. 485. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992.

S. 584. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to allow the continued occupancy and use of certain land and improvements within Rocky Mountain National Park.

S. 652. An act to provide financial assistance for the rehabilitation of the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the development of an exhibit to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin.

S. 695. An act to suspend temporarily new shipper bonding privileges.

S. 761. An act to rename the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in the State of Idaho as the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in honor of the late Morley Nelson, an international authority on birds of prey, who was instrumental in the establishment of this National Conservation Area, and for other purposes.

S. 777. An act to designate Catoctin Mountain Park in the State of Maryland as the "Catoctin Mountain National Recreation Area", and for other purposes.

S. 819. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to reallocate costs of the Pactola Dam and Reservoir, South Dakota, to reflect increased demands for municipal, industrial, and fish and wildlife purposes.

S. 891. An act to extend the water service contract for the Ainsworth Unit, Sandhills Division, Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, Nebraska.

S. 895. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a rural water supply

program in the Reclamation States to provide a clean, safe, affordable, and reliable water supply to rural residents.

S. 958. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Star-Spangled Banner Trail in the State of Maryland and Virginia and the District of Columbia as a National Historic Trail.

S. 1154. An act to extend the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, to provide improved visitor services at the park, and for other purposes.

S. 1238. An act to amend the Public Lands Corps of 1993 to provide for the conduct of projects that protect forests, and for other purposes.

S. 1338. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Geological Survey, to conduct a study on groundwater resources in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.

S. 1627. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study to evaluate resources along the coastal region of the State of Delaware and to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing a unit of the National Park System in Delaware.

WELCOMING FATHER PAUL GRANILLO

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to welcome our guest chaplain, Paul Christopher Granillo of the Diocese of San Bernardino, and thank him for giving the opening prayer this morning. I believe he is the first Catholic priest from the San Bernardino Diocese to offer the prayer in the U.S. Capitol.

Father Granillo, or Father Paul, as he is known, was born in Redlands, California and educated at the local schools there where I met him as a student where he was involved with the Junior Achievement program.

He is part of a very proud Mexican-American family that has lived in that

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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city for three generations. He is the eldest of two sons born to Richard and Connie Granillo. His younger brother, Carlo Granillo, is a police detective in the City of Fontana. This is a wonderful family, and I am sure they are proud to serve the Inland Empire communities in their respective ways.

Father Paul attended Cal State University of San Bernardino and graduated with a BA degree in history where my wife, Barbara Baca, Joe Baca, Jr., and his wife, Jennifer Sanchez Baca, also graduated from. He received a Master of Divinity from St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, California and a License in Canon Law from Catholic University here in Washington, DC.

Following his ordination in May of 1997, he served as a parish priest in Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage and Riverside, California.

He is now assigned to Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, and he currently serves as Priest Secretary to Bishop Gerald Barnes and as the Communications Director for the Diocese of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties in California.

Father Paul is very active in the greater San Bernardino communities, providing services and counsel to growing Hispanic communities.

We were recently together at a Catholic charity event. In addition to his church activity, he is an avid golfer where he and Father Howard Paul and Joe Baca, Jr. and I have had the privilege of enjoying a friendly competitive round of golf against one another. And I tell him, Father Paul, the Lord cannot always guide your golf ball in a straight direction because he wants you to know the feeling of the lost sheep that was lost, but found the right path.

I thank Chaplain Coughlin for his kind invitation to Reverend Granillo to offer this morning's prayer. I thank Father Paul for traveling to our Nation's capital today to be with us. God bless him, and God bless his family.

A BAD CASE OF AMNESIA

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am concerned about some Democrats here in Washington. It seems that when it comes to the vote on the Iraq war, they have developed a serious case of amnesia. That is why I am going to give them a little reminder of what they said 3 years ago as they cast the votes they seem to have forgotten.

A leading liberal Senator from New York argued that "If left unchecked, Saddam Hussein will continue to increase his capability to wage biological and chemical warfare and will keep trying to develop nuclear weapons."

The Minority Leader in this House emphatically stated, "Saddam Hussein certainly has chemical and biological

weapons. There is no question about that."

The Minority Leader in the Senate warned that, "Saddam Hussein's near success with developing a nuclear weapon should be an eye-opener for us all."

Now, some Democrats want to act as if these statements of support for the war never happened. We all remember the line, "I voted for the war before I voted against it." It seems like many more Democrats are jumping on that bandwagon.

DEPARTMENT OF INJUSTICE

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Robert Kennedy's 80th birthday, the Robert F. Kennedy Justice Department maybe, given what has happened, should be renamed the Department of No Justice, because political operatives in charge have betrayed his legacy and the cause of justice in this country.

As The Washington Post reports this morning, despite objections of the Justice Department's career professionals, President Bush's political appointees "preapproved" a controversial Georgia voter-identification program that has been compared to a modern-day poll tax.

This is just one of a series of incidents that have subverted the purposes for which the Justice Department exists.

Last June, Justice Department political appointees announced that the government would seek \$10 billion instead of the \$130 billion recommended by career lawyers in a case they tried for 6 years against the tobacco industry, and won.

In the voting rights section, political appointees have also overruled career lawyers in approving GOP-backed redistricting maps for Georgia and Texas in recent years.

Now, that is a way to build morale.

In fact, the Civil Rights Division has lost nearly 20 percent of its career lawyers this year alone because they are fed up with political interference. At this point, they might as well drop the word "justice" from the masthead of the Department.

It is time to end the political interference and let the Justice Department professionals do their jobs. Incompetence is not a virtue.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly urge this House to act before the end of the year to protect middle class families from the alternative minimum tax.

When a 1993 tax increase failed to adjust the AMT exemption amounts for

inflation, what was intended to be a tax on high-income taxpayers became a tax that punishes the middle class. If the middle class exemptions are not extended for 2006, the numbers of New Yorkers forced to pay the alternative minimum tax will more than quadruple to 1.6 million families next year.

Make no mistake about it, these are middle class taxpayers that would be apprehended by the AMT because we have not changed the law. Many of them live in the Hudson Valley that I represent.

This is an unfair tax on middle class Hudson Valley residents who would be forced to pay an average of \$4,000 in new taxes next year. This is money middle class families need to pay their own bills and put their own family needs in order. The last thing we should be doing is forcing middle class families in New York to send more of their money to Washington, D.C.

Let us do the right thing for the middle class. Let us extend the AMT exemptions before the end of this year.

RECLAIMING AMERICA

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the budget bill attacks students and low-income and middle class families. It targets low and moderate income Americans with \$70 billion in new tax cuts that will be included in the budget, and those tax cuts favor the super rich.

The tax cuts for the rich are placed on the backs of students and their families. Under this bill, student borrowers, already saddled with \$17,500 in debt, could be forced to pay up to an additional \$1,500 for his or her college loans. The bill raises student loan interest rate caps, raises borrower interest rates and fees for consolidation loans, and raises student loan taxes, and puts billions of dollars in student aid at risk by cutting all the critical funds used to carry out and administer student aid programs.

So we have more and more young Americans who will not be getting a college education, but they will be getting a political education. If you do not vote, the politicians in Washington will ignore you, shove you aside, cut your education funds. It is a call to young Americans to get involved, register, vote, and reclaim this country.

RECOGNIZING LAURIN GROOVER'S LATEST SUCCESS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, President Teddy Roosevelt once said that "The best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

Throughout the past 11 years, Laurin Groover, a native of Florence, South Carolina, has done just that by working to improve the lives of countless citizens of the second district of South Carolina.

After graduating from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, Laurin began work in Washington as a staff assistant with my predecessor, the late Chairman Floyd Spence. Due to her extensive knowledge of military issues and strong work ethic, Laurin has quickly risen through the ranks on Capitol Hill. As Legislative Director in the office, she has been instrumental in protecting America's and South Carolina's military installations and helping American men and women in uniform win the war on Terrorism.

Although I am sad to announce that Laurin is leaving the Hill, I am happy to recognize her opportunity as a consultant with the American Business Development Group.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

VICTIMIZING THE VICTIMS (AGAIN)

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the Bush Administration's inability to deal with natural disasters was demonstrated once again yesterday when the President's buddies at FEMA sent Thanksgiving greetings to the Katrina victims: "Hit the streets in two weeks." The same "compassionate conservatism" demonstrated during the botched rescue is now being repeated in the aftermath.

In addition to victimizing the victims again, this will leave cities across Texas with a sudden increase in the homeless population; cities like Austin that are still owed over \$2 million in what the Federal Government promised to pay for the Katrina disaster. While giving evacuees only two weeks to leave, FEMA took three weeks to issue the October 24 press announcement.

Mr. President, I understand your desperation for the distraction offered by foreign travel, but is it not time for you to get home and address one of the many failures of this Administration for Americans?

HOME OWNERSHIP AND GROWING ECONOMY—GOOD NEWS

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, our economy is continuing its move up, with the housing market in the driver's seat. Since the 1990s, the housing market has been on the rise, and last quarter this increase was even bigger, reaching record-breaking growth. This is good news and something that we all should applaud.

Mr. Speaker, this housing boom should be creating a lot of news, and

there are a few facts that you may not have seen in your morning paper. New homeowners have been able to build hundreds of billions of dollars in equity in ownership. Consumer spending has increased, putting more and more dollars back into our economy. New jobs, that is an increase in jobs, has occurred in each of the last 25 months. And, of course, the increased rate of homeownership to record levels have helped millions of Americans realize the American dream.

With a stronger economy and an increase in jobs, the trend of continuous economic growth should only grow stronger in the months ahead. As we approach Thanksgiving, we should all give thanks for the incredible opportunities we have in our Nation, opportunities that give every American greater hope and optimism about their future.

□ 1015

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. CARTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, this year the President of the United States, George W. Bush, raised the issue and started the great debate on Social Security. The American public learned that our Social Security system is in trouble, and they know that if we do not do something, we are going to be facing a crisis.

You can debate when that crisis is going to happen, but no one now will doubt that there is a crisis. I believe we can dream a dream for an America in which everyone can have a living amount of money that they can retire on. Right now, if Social Security is all you have got, you are in trouble. It is time for us to continue this debate.

It is time for us on both sides of the aisle to come to the table and address Social Security and come up with solutions which will increase the amount of available income to our retirees and to our elderly, so that all people in America can live the American Dream, both now and when they reach their golden years. Let us not stop the debate on Social Security. Let us continue to look at this important issue.

TORTURE AMENDMENT

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it is said that actions speak louder than words, but our reputation depends on both. Fair or not, for people around the world, the actions of a few Americans at Abu Ghraib have left a stain on America's reputation and have made it harder for us to win the war against global jihadists. Erasing that stain and protecting our soldiers will take both respectable actions and credible words.

I applaud the Senate for twice voting, once by a 90-9 tally and again by voice vote, to set clear guidelines for interrogating prisoners and to prohibit techniques that do not meet Army regulations in the Geneva Conventions. Making that the law will give credibility to our words about our conduct.

If anyone knows about torture, it is the senior Senator from Arizona. What does he say? Senator McCAIN says the idea America could use torture is killing us. He says torture does not work. It yields answers, but not necessarily the truth. That is wrong, because as Senator McCAIN says, our men and women in uniform are always, always Americans and different, better, and stronger than those who would destroy us.

Mr. Speaker, our troops need clear guidelines, and the Senate amendment provides just that. The House should take a stand and pass this important amendment.

JEFFREY WADSWORTH

(Mr. WAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Jeffrey Wadsworth on his induction into the National Academy of Engineering. Election to the academy is among the highest distinctions that the engineering profession can bestow. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.

Dr. Wadsworth is a world-renowned metallurgist. He became a United States citizen and has had a distinguished career at Lockheed, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, and Battelle Memorial Institute. He has devoted himself to finding ways of using science and technology to improve our Nation, compiling a stellar record of contributions and earning numerous awards.

Since 2003, Dr. Wadsworth has been the director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Under his leadership, the lab has continued as one of the world's premier research institutions for material sciences and energy research. Dr. Wadsworth was elected to the academy in recognition of his research and leadership in national defense and science programs.

Congratulations to Dr. Jeffrey Wadsworth on his induction into the National Academy of Engineering and his service to Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Jeff, thank you for your many contributions.

GOP BUDGET RECONCILIATION

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to tell my constituents and the American people that the raid is still in progress. The House

Republican leadership continues its attempt to further raid the Nation's coffers and rob our citizens of important services.

Last week, Republicans had to pull their budget reconciliation from the House floor, temporarily preventing a disastrous fiscal blow that will dig an even deeper deficit hole. This week they continue efforts to force through Congress over \$50 billion in cuts to important programs, including student loans, Medicaid, child support and child support enforcement. Despite shameful attempts to disguise these cuts and services as necessary tough choices, the budget reconciliation funds an additional \$70 billion in misguided tax cuts for the wealthy and neglects the billions needed for Hurricane Katrina reconstruction efforts.

Democrats are holding Republicans accountable for enormously irresponsible spending that has managed to turn the surplus that the President inherited into an \$8 trillion deficit. Fortunately, there are a few honest Republicans who know that the budget plan will make the national debt worse by adding an additional \$20 billion to the already record-high deficit. They know they have lost their way with years of increased spending and indefensible tax cuts.

I hope that they stand strong and may not do what is responsible or what is popular in their conference, but do what is right for the American people.

MARY DEXTER SCANLON

(Mr. SHAW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mrs. Mary Dexter Scanlon on the occasion of her 100th birthday. On November 21, 2005, she is celebrating this milestone in this life with over 50 relatives and friends of the family who will come across the country to her home in Boca Raton, Florida.

Mary Louise Dexter, daughter of Ralph and Carrie Dexter of English and Swedish descent, grew up in Galva, Illinois. She assisted her father in bringing the first telephone service to their small rural town. She continued to educate herself and left home to go to New York City to attend Columbia University and later went on to become a teacher.

In her lifetime, Mary has been part of much of this Nation's history, living through the Industrial Revolution, the Roaring Twenties, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, and her brother was born on the Fourth of July. Mary is the proud mother of six sons, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Mary's spirit is high, and her will to live every moment in life is great as she makes new friends each and every day.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of three generations, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in wishing Mary Dexter Scanlon a very happy 100th birthday.

SUPPORTING CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

(Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce legislation to reaffirm Congress' support for conservation easements, one of the most powerful and effective tools available for the permanent conservation of private lands in the United States of America.

I am proud to represent southeastern Pennsylvania, a region that takes pride in its heritage and the preservation of its open spaces. However, in my district, Mr. Speaker, land available for preservation exceeds local resources. That is why we need conservation easements. That is where partnerships between private landowners and conservation charities come into play. By allowing landowners to receive a tax incentive by using these easements to donate the land for preservation charities, the private sector can supplement government attempts at land preservation.

On January 27 of this year, Mr. Speaker, the Joint Committee on Taxation released recommendations to limit the use of conservation easements by eliminating the charitable contribution deduction with respect to personal residence properties. In addition, the amount of charitable deductions for qualified properties would be lowered from the current rate of 100 percent to 33 percent of the fair market value of the easement. I, as well as many of my colleagues here in the House, feel that this would be a terrible mistake.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should reaffirm its commitment to environmental protection and historic preservation by passing this resolution. I call on my colleagues to review my legislation and to support its passage.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to walk the Halls of Capitol Hill these days without running into signs just like this one, reminding us of the size of our national debt, put outside their doors by members of the Democrat Blue Dog Coalition. Their message: "It's Time to Put Our Fiscal House in Order, Reduce Our Deficit."

I agree with them. And I am glad to see this bipartisan support for deficit reduction. By bringing the Deficit Reduction Act to the floor this week, the Republican leadership has provided the Blue Dogs with an opportunity to vote for the very policy they promote with their signs. The Deficit Reduction Act would result in some \$50 billion in budget savings over 5 years. It is a significant step in the right direction, and

it is welcome policy for those of us committed to fiscal responsibility.

If the owners of these signs are serious about debt reduction, then they should vote for the Deficit Reduction Act this week. Otherwise, their signs are little more than false advertising and ought to be taken down.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION GIVING FEMA AUTHORITY TO RELEASE INFORMATION ABOUT REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. When the First Lady of the Gulf, Katrina, unloaded her wrath on Louisiana and Mississippi, thousands of people fled to my home State of Texas. This evacuation brought in not only good folks but it brought in registered sex offenders to the communities and neighborhoods of southeast Texas. Now, 2½ months later, many child molesters remain unaccounted for, lurking in the shadows, some waiting to attack again innocent children.

The Houston Chronicle reported yesterday that almost 300 known sex offenders from Louisiana have moved to the Houston area alone since Hurricane Katrina. None of them have been accounted for.

Some of these sex offenders registered with FEMA and received Federal disaster assistance. So FEMA has an address and a location of these registered sex offenders, but they will not release the names to local law enforcement. They are citing privacy reasons. This defies common sense.

Sex offenders gave up their privacy rights when they decided to rape and molest children. It is for this reason today I am filing legislation giving FEMA the authority and the duty to release this information about registered sex offenders to local law enforcement officials. The public has a right to know who these people are. Our children are in danger, and there should be no red tape when it comes to their safety.

That's just the way it is.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 72, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2006

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 558 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 558

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 72) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution

to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommit.

Sec. 2. House Resolution 542 is laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my neighbor and friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. PUTNAM asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 558 is a rule that provides for consideration of House Joint Resolution 72, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2006. As we approach the end of the week and the time that we will be taking in our districts to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, this particular rule and the CR probably are among the least controversial things that the gentleman from Florida and I will discuss today. I look forward to an abbreviated debate on this.

The rule provides for 1 hour of debate in the House equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution and provides one motion to recommit.

I want to commend Chairman LEWIS, Ranking Member OBEY, and the entire Appropriations Committee in the House for the determined effort this year to avoid an omnibus spending bill. This is something that unfortunately has become a routine part of our end-of-the-year appropriations process and Chairman LEWIS under tremendous leadership with a great committee behind him has managed to avoid that this year, in fact, setting almost a record by completing all of the House's work on the appropriations process before July 4.

□ 1030

The committee has practiced due diligence and is working to pass each of these bills individually rather than having them attached as a train at the end of the year. This continuing resolution is necessary because our friends on the other side of the Rotunda are a little bit further behind in their appropriations process and we are working through the conference report stage.

This CR will allow the appropriators to continue that conferencing work to ensure that we have a clean appropriations process where bills are moving individually in the regular order.

Today we are considering the Labor, Health and Human Services and Edu-

cation Appropriations Bill which leaves just three outstanding appropriations conference reports. The underlying resolution permits Congress to finish its work and provide the President adequate time to review the measures before signing them into law. H.J. Res. 72 simply extends the previous continuing resolution through December 17.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, it is a one sentence change, only shifting the date to December 17 for the continuing operations for the government.

The CR is a clean continuation of H.J. Res. 68, which passed the House in September by a vote of 348-65, and which funded programs and activities at the lowest of the House-passed level, the Senate-passed level or the fiscal year 2005 current rate and included language prohibiting agencies from resuming or initiating programs for procurement not funded in FY 2005 and prohibited agencies from awarding new grants and other forms of assistance during the period of continuing resolution.

Throughout the appropriations process, the appropriators have demonstrated their commitment to fiscal responsibility by working within the framework we established in the budget resolution earlier this year. Again, I want to express my gratitude to the gentleman from California (Chairman LEWIS), the ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and the entire committee and staff of the Appropriations Committee for their hard work this year.

I urge Members to support the rules and the underlying continuing resolution so we can finish the appropriations process in regular order and continue on our way toward responsibly funding the needs of America.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) for yielding me time. I also thank him for bringing the real Florida orange juice to the 7 a.m. rules meeting this morning.

I oppose this closed rule, Mr. Speaker, and the underlying legislation. Mr. Speaker, I wondered to myself earlier this morning as the Rules Committee majority members passed yet another closed rule which stifles debate and shuts off meaningful contributions from Members of this Chamber.

What is the problem? Congress has only had since January 3 of this year to complete work on the 12 annual appropriations bills, the so-called "must pass bills" that Congress works on every year.

In case anyone is unclear, so far the President has signed only five of the 12 appropriations bills that must pass and become law before September 30. Defense appropriations? Not done. Military quality of life and Veterans Affairs? Not done. Transportation, Treasury, HUD? Not done. Of course, the bill

which funds this very institution, the legislative branch appropriations legislation, well, we did that to protect our branch.

And the sad part? No one is to blame but the party in control. It is an irrefutable fact, the last time that there was sole Democratic control of Congress and the White House, all 13 appropriations bills were passed by September 30. We had a balanced budget. And oh, yes, budget surpluses as far as the eye at that time could see.

My, how times have changed. Now we have debt as far as the eye can see and disdain from much of the rest of the world. The people here are the modern day incarnations of Nero. The majority fiddles while the Nation burns.

More than 45 days have passed since Congress passed its last continuing resolution, 48 to be exact; and in that time, Republicans have managed to pass a measly three of the ten outstanding appropriations bills at the time of the last continuing resolution. In baseball, their batting average would be pretty good. But in the real world where salaries and promotion are based on accomplishments and contributions, getting done 30 percent of what you are supposed to get done is absolutely abysmal. In any other job in America, 30 percent would get you fired. It should here too, Mr. Speaker, and I hope America is paying attention.

So I ask, what in the world have the majority Members been doing over the last month and a half that they cannot get these constitutionally-mandated appropriations bills done on time?

We know that they have not dealt with FEMA. I have been trying to get them to deal with FEMA since the agency messed up Florida recovery efforts in the year 2004. And now look at where their neglect got us. Republicans have not dealt with the national security leaks in the Bush White House. They have not dealt with increasing access to health care or investing in affordable housing for low and moderate incomes. They have not dealt with unemployment in this Nation.

In fact, this morning the chairman of the Rules Committee said to us that we have "full employment" in this Nation. He identifies that as 6 percent. I guess there is no one looking for a job in San Dimas where he is from or the greater Los Angeles area.

So forgive me, Mr. Speaker, if I feel it unnecessary to grant Republicans another 30 days to fix a problem that they, one, created on their own, and two, have shown zero ability that they are capable of leading our country in a responsibly fiscal manner.

The problem is not Hurricanes Katrina or Wilma or other disasters. It is not even the failing war in Iraq. The problem Republicans have is their beloved tax cuts that 95 percent of the people in this country barely benefit from. Their problem is themselves and their failed fiscal policies.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Perhaps I misspoke earlier saying that this would be the least controversial item we would deal with this morning. I recognize that we all had to get up early to be at Rules this morning, and apparently it is affecting some of our temperaments.

I would just point out that we finished all of the House's work, and I gave equal credit to both our chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the rest of his committee and the ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), who finished all of our work by July 4, all of our appropriations processes in regular order, in an individual manner instead of having to bundle them up into a train at the end of the legislative season.

To date, we have finished seven of those 11 appropriations bills. We will do the eighth in a couple of hours here on this floor today, which leaves three remaining waiting to be returned from their conference work with the Senate.

So it is often said at times in the House that your opposition is the other party, but your enemy is the other Chamber. And when it comes to the enemy of time and being at the end of the legislative calendar, that, unfortunately, is the case with the appropriations process that we are waiting on regular order, the conference committees with the House and the Senate to finish their work on those three remaining bills.

With respect to the gentleman's concerns about a closed rule, this is a continuing resolution that is one sentence long. It funds the operations of government from now until December 17. The stifling of debate is nonexistent. There are no speakers on either side for this. The fact that it is a closed rule indicates that there is really no other option about how to approach a continuing resolution other than should it be December 16 instead of December 17?

Would the gentleman have the CR expire on Thanksgiving Day when no one will be in this Chamber to act to fund the operations of the government so that national parks remain open and Social Security checks continue to go out?

What would the amendments be that the gentleman would offer if December 17 is an inadequate solution to funding the operations of government until we finish the three remaining conference reports on appropriations?

To say that that is stifling democracy is nothing more than hyperbole.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would inform my good friend from Florida that getting up for a 7 a.m. Rules Committee does not alter my temperament. The suggestion that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle should have completed their

work by September 30 is mandated by our responsibilities here in the House of Representatives. And I find it disingenuous to speak of the other body, which I heartily endorse what my colleague said with reference to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) in this House of Representatives but the other body is controlled by the majority. The White House is controlled by the majority. And it is y'all that have it all. And so under the circumstances, it is your responsibility to have done it by September 30.

To answer the gentleman, what we would have done perhaps if we did not go home for Thanksgiving and take Thanksgiving dinner up here. The gentleman asks for another date or debate about this continuing resolution, doubtless what we would have been able to do is stay here and that may have lit a fire under some of the people in the other body who need to get their work done.

We have all sorts of problems in this Nation and there is no reason for us not to complete our work.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. PUTNAM. Just briefly, I respect the gentleman's observation that the majority party in the Senate is the party that I share, the Republican party, but I learned a long time ago to stop trying to answer for that Chamber over there. That is a tough body to figure out. The gentleman knows as well as I do that they tend to bog down in the oratory and slow down on the action.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO.)

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen for yielding me time.

Despite what the Member from Florida said, there are some who would like to speak to this issue. He said what does 30 days matter? Should it be 29?

Guess what? The Congress assembled on behalf of the American people, and this administration will borrow \$1.3 billion a day every day for those 30 days. We will be \$39 billion deeper in debt a month from today.

What would we do if we had an open rule? Well, perhaps we could make some real cuts in wasteful programs in the budget, instead of attacking the vulnerable, the students, kids getting lunches at school. They are just eating too much. Kids in foster care, long term care for seniors.

Maybe we could go where the real money is. They asked Willie Sutton, Why did you rob banks? Because that is where the money is.

The Republicans do not want to go where the money is because that is where the special interests are, the people who fund their campaign machine to keep them in the majority, to

keep them borrowing \$1.3 billion a day, indebting the American people as far as the eye can see.

What cuts might we have to make? Well, let us see. The President has this bizarre idea that we should borrow a trillion dollars, one thousand billion dollars to go to Mars while we cannot meet the needs of people here on Earth, here in the United States of America. We do not have money for levees, jet-ties. We do not have money for the school lunch program. We do not have money for student loans, but we should borrow a trillion dollars to go to Mars. But before that, let us borrow \$100 billion to go back to the moon to get some more dust. Great idea.

No, personally, I would like to have an up or down vote on borrowing \$100 billion to go back to the moon.

A few other things, let us revisit Star Wars. The general in charge of Star Wars gave us some very, very encouraging news. He said the system to protect us against missiles that will never be fired against the United States because we could track them back and retaliate, they will smuggle a bomb in if they want to attack us. But he said it has a better than zero chance of working, better than zero after \$100 billion and abrogating the anti-missile treaty.

□ 1045

Whoa, that is good. Well, maybe we could visit that issue in an open rule.

How about corporate farm subsidies? The American people are going to borrow around \$25 billion this year to give subsidies for surplus crops being grown by corporate farmers and others. Well, maybe we could visit that issue on the floor. No, they would not want to touch that. There is a lot of money coming in there.

How about the \$19 billion in the energy bill in subsidies to the oil industry in the hope that they will take money, borrowed by the taxpayers, given to them to go out and explore? Of course, those same oil company execs, of course they were not under oath, I have got to admit that, said that that money, the head of Exxon said it is nothing, it is chump change, and it has no effect on our operations. So maybe we could take back that \$19 billion and spend it on lunch for hungry kids or maybe we could put the money back into the student loan program that you want to cut out in the reconciliation bill.

Then we have a few tax giveaways out there, offshore companies like Accenture, largest homeland security contractor in the history of the United States, \$10 billion, who has moved their headquarters to the Bahamas so they will not pay any taxes in the United States of America, but they are going to defend us against foreign enemies, but they just do not want to pay any taxes here. I would like to be defended against them and those giveaways.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman clearly has come to the floor a little bit early, because all of these things are going to be eligible for debate here in another several hours when we move forward on our deficit reduction package, and the gentleman will have an opportunity to exercise through his vote that savings process, that deficit reduction process.

But I am just curious, in all the gentleman's rhetoric, what would you do differently about the continuing resolution that funds government through December 17 until we finish our regular appropriations process?

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would schedule some up-or-down votes on these sorts of major cuts in a much expanded reconciliation under an open rule.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would further yield, does the gentleman object to us funding the government through December 17?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I object to borrowing \$1.3 billion a day between now and then without any attempt at fiscal restraint.

Mr. PUTNAM. Would the gentleman shut down the government to prevent that from occurring?

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, that was the ploy of your party. That is not mine, but I would take the time to keep Congress here.

What we are talking about is Congress going on vacation, Congress going away for 2 weeks, have Thanksgiving at home, while we are taking food out of the mouths of kids and depriving students of loans through the reconciliation bill, borrowing \$1.3 billion a day on behalf of the American taxpayers and getting them by another \$39 billion. That is what we are talking about.

On the reconciliation vote, if you would bring the reconciliation bill up as an open rule, you know that is a closed rule, too. You are negotiating cuts only with your side of the aisle. You do not intend to get a single Democratic vote; and the biggest cut in the bill is student loans, the party of opportunity. The second biggest cut in the bill is Medicaid; dump those problems on the States and deprive people of needed health care. Then, of course, we have the cuts in food security and other things in that bill.

But we are not going to be allowed to offer amendments to cut Star Wars, the return to the Moon for \$100 billion, corporate farm subsidies, tax giveaways. We will not be allowed to offer any amendments during the consideration of that bill. I would stay here through next week and have debate day after day and go through a series of amendments up or down on bringing some fiscal responsibility to this Congress.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentleman is passionate about his concern for the fiscal well-being, but he is clearly misdirected in the

sense that he will have an opportunity to vote on a number of these deficit reduction measures, a number of these savings, a number of these government reform mechanisms; and he will have the opportunity to present all of the things that he talked about in his own recommittal motion, which is a right that has been granted to the minority party.

So all of the things that he talked about, all of the things that he objects to, the sound agricultural policy that guarantees that we continue to have the safest, cheapest food supply in the world, if you want to cut those things, you can put it in your program. If you do not like the fact that we are taking Pell grants up, you could object to that through your recommittal motion.

The point is that we are here today debating the rule on the continuing resolution of the government because we have three regular order appropriations bills yet to move, because I believe, to our credit and to this Chamber's credit, to the credit of the entire House, we are not moving a last minute omnibus choo-choo train that all of us have to go home and then discover something in that that we are not real terribly proud of. I think it is a credit to the appropriators on both sides of the aisle and a credit, frankly, to both Chambers, and as the gentleman from Florida has pointed out, under Republican leadership, that are bringing us 11 individual appropriations bills that can be voted on up or down.

You have an opportunity to make your position publicly known on each of those bills, rather than having things stuffed into a last-minute train, which all of us object to and which diminishes the status of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I join the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), my colleague, in asserting that we should stay here and complete the task that is before us.

I say to my very good friend from Florida that your and my chairman of the Rules Committee speaking about closed rules in another time made the following statement, that closed rules are anathema to democracy.

When you argue that we are going to have time to do this, when we take the budget deficit matter up, what you are talking about is 1 hour on the rule, 1 hour on general debate, you say 2 hours, I will accept that, on general debate, 10 minutes in the motion to recommit, and that then is what 435 Members and five delegates have that they can deal with in terms of time.

The problems pointed out by my friend from Oregon are significant, and the things that you have heard me say in the Rules Committee, the things that disturb me and distress me most are these things having to do with education.

No one can tell me that they are not prepared to make the sacrifices for our children to have afterschool programs; and yet, what we are going to find in that program are substantial cuts. There are no afterschool programs in the counties that I represent.

In Medicaid, it is no secret what is about to happen. When we cut Medicaid, any way you cut it, you can slice it, dice it any way you want, States, get ready, because you are getting ready to have a significant problem with tax increases at that level.

What part of national sacrifice do we not understand? What part of closed rule that I heard so often in 1992 does the majority not understand that that does not give the Members of this body the opportunity to come forward with amendments that might make sense with reference to fiscal responsibility here in the House of Representatives?

Those are some of the issues.

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and we have kicked off quite a debate here this morning. We know that it is going to be a long day as we approach the debate over the Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill, the ongoing debate over the continuing resolution to fund our government, and later today the deficit reduction package, which I dare say will not take food from any child in America's mouth, despite the overheated rhetoric of the gentleman from Oregon, respectfully the gentleman from Florida and a number of others on that side of the aisle who it would appear from their media statements discuss in the salons and parlors of the Beltway whether Republicans hate children or old people more.

I dare say that as we bring up this Deficit Reduction Act, which finally for the first time since 1997 puts us back on a serious track to finding savings not just in the discretionary side of our spending but in the mandatory side which makes up over half of Federal spending today and which slows the rate of growth in government, again, one of those Washington, D.C.-style cuts, where budgets grow 7 percent instead of 7.3 percent or they grow 6 percent instead of 6.3 percent, and we find \$50 billion worth of savings in a \$2.5 trillion per year budget.

So \$50 billion in savings over 5 years in what would then be a \$14 trillion pot. I think that almost any American would say I think that my budget growing 7 percent instead of 7.3 percent is acceptable, and I dare say to my friend from Florida, who represents, among other counties, Palm Beach County, Florida, the home of Lake Worth Avenue among other places. I think there are a number of counties that would gladly trade their tax base for his, and I would also say that I believe that somewhere in Palm Beach County there is an afterschool program

of some shape or form. There must be an afterschool program somewhere in all of Palm Beach County, Florida.

I believe that as we move through this debate it is important for us to be responsible in our rhetoric and keep our eyes on the ball, which is the looming fiscal crisis that is out there if Congress does not have the courage to get its arms around mandatory spending, which is consuming Federal spending, making up over 50 percent of it today and two-thirds of Federal spending.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield just for a quick correction?

Mr. PUTNAM. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, that is Worth Avenue in Palm Beach, not West Palm Beach. Our colleague MARK FOLEY represents that area, a Republican.

I represent Pahokee and Belle Glade, which are also in Palm Beach, and you are talking about no tax base. I just want to have that correction made.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, the gentleman referred to the entire county, not his piece of the county, and I certainly am well aware of Pahokee and Belle Glade and the challenges that they have gone through.

But I believe somewhere in your county you have an afterschool program.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. In private schools.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

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**WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT
ON H.R. 3010, DEPARTMENTS OF
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2006**

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 559 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 559

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

□ 1100

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 559 is a rule which waives all points of order against the conference report accompanying H.R. 3010 and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying legislation is one of the most important measures we consider each year. I would like to congratulate the members of the Appropriations Committee for putting together a comprehensive package that will improve the education of our children, care for our seniors and our underprivileged.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see that since Republicans took control of Congress, funding for the Department of Education has doubled. More recently, over the last 5 years, total education spending has increased by nearly 50 percent. Our children will benefit from an improved educational system that will enhance their ability to succeed and better prepare the next generation of workers.

The fundamental root of all education is reading. As a parent and a former educator, the time I spent reading with my children will be forever cherished. Unfortunately, some of our youth do not have that opportunity at home. So included in this legislation is \$1 billion for reading programs that will enable States to eliminate the reading deficit through scientific research-based reading programs.

I am also very pleased that the TRIO and GEAR UP programs are included in this all important funding package. These programs assist low-income, first generation college students in their transition from high school to college. This is a difficult transition for any student, but especially for those who are the first in their families to attend college. We must continue to support programs like TRIO and GEAR UP so that these students can continue to flourish.

Mr. Speaker, another important responsibility we have is to ensure that citizens have access to health care facilities and treatments. Included in this legislation is a \$66 million increase in the Community Health Centers that are so vitally important across the Nation, but especially in rural States like my home State of West Virginia.

The National Institutes of Health continues to serve our Nation well by developing new treatments and cures for the many diseases that plague our society. With a total funding level of \$28.6 billion, the researchers at NIH will be able to continue this mission so that we become a healthier Nation and global society.

A key aspect of a healthier society is where all citizens have access to prescription drugs, and I am proud to say that as of November 15, just 2 days ago, Medicare eligible beneficiaries have been able to sign up for a prescription drug plan under Medicare. The resources provided in the underlying legislation will allow the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services to properly conduct an outreach effort that will hopefully enroll every senior that stands to benefit from this program.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware of the challenges that could potentially face all Americans in the coming winter, especially the high cost of natural gas. I am pleased to say that the State formula grants for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP, are funded at \$2 billion in this legislation and an additional \$1 billion will be included in the House version of the budget reconciliation bill.

As with any appropriations legislation, tough choices were made. These choices are particularly difficult when dealing with the sensitive areas of health and education. The Appropriations Committee allotted the available resources in this bill in a manner that emphasizes these programs most important to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this is solid legislation that I believe all Members should be able to support.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from West Virginia for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today we consider House Resolution 559, the rule allowing consideration of the conference report accompanying the fiscal year 2006 Labor HHS Education Appropriations bill. This legislation is the clearest demonstration of the contempt for the proper functioning of this body and ultimately disrespect for democracy.

The Labor HHS Education Appropriations bill is an incredibly important piece of legislation. It determines funding levels for job training programs, community college programs, child labor protections, and community health centers.

This legislation is the primary funding vehicle for the National Institutes of Health. It determines how our government approaches timely and important issues like stem cell research,

global AIDS research, pediatric medicine, cancer research, and so many other critical issues. It is also the principal funder of some of the most innovative and practical research going on today at the universities and colleges across the Nation.

In my home State of California, two thirds of all basic research at the University of California system is from Federal dollars. As examples using these dollars, the university researchers found a way to differentiate Alzheimer's from other dementia. They are making strides on identifying genes that cause specific cancers. They are looking into factors that influence brain development.

The reason I am pointing to all of this is to underscore just how important this legislation is to the daily lives of our fellow Americans. And having established that this bill is a crucial bill for the health, welfare, education, and prosperity of the American people, I would ask my counterparts on the Republican side of the aisle why on earth is it that no one has seen this conference report? Why is it that as of this morning, this very morning, we are scheduled to consider and vote upon this legislation that no one in the House of Representatives, with exception of a very few in the Republican leadership, has even laid eyes on, much less read or analyzed? We did not even go into the Rules Committee to consider this legislation until 7 o'clock this morning under emergency rules.

The original version of this bill passed the House months ago, and I might remind my fellow Americans that it was in this bill that the Republican leadership of this body tried to quietly eliminate funding for the Public Broadcasting System and Sesame Street. Thankfully, under incredible pressure they were forced to reverse themselves.

And since then, this bill and its Senate companion have been locked away in conference. A handful of appointees of this Republican leadership have had months to meet in smokey back rooms. This select group decided for all of us here today and for every American family what should and should not be in the final version of the bill. So with that understanding, let me say that this is, at best, a short-sided piece of legislation.

No Child Left Behind funding is cut by \$784 million. The maximum Pell Grant award is frozen for the 4th straight year, and no new funding for all other student financial aid and support programs is provided. The bill provides \$4 billion less than Republicans promised for special education through IDEA. Training grants for health care professionals are cut \$206 million.

I want everyone in America to understand exactly why these programs are being cut. Because in the face of gross fiscal mismanagement on the part of this majority, they want to pass a \$56 billion tax cut for wealthy Americans this coming week. Over half of that

money, \$23 billion, will go to the very wealthiest of Americans, those earning over \$1 million per year.

Now, I am certainly not suggesting that there are not government programs that cannot be cut. But what we are talking about are educational programs, health and safety programs, and treatment programs that not only work, but they work well for middle class American families, and they are being sacrificed for tax cuts for the most wealthy and the super rich. The rest of America is being left behind.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we are facing an increasingly costly war in Iraq, significant and necessary hurricane relief needs, and a looming crisis over avian flu. The debate I urge my colleagues to have, a debate not yet addressed by my friends on the other side of the aisle, is really about shared sacrifice and about what the true priorities of the American people are.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to point out that this bill probably touches every single American's life. It is extremely important because it is the broad reach of education and health care, and these are very complicated and large programs. And I want to congratulate the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), chairman of the subcommittee, for the intense work that he has done not only on our side, but through the conference.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

(Mr. REGULA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

I want to compliment both speakers from the Rules Committee. I think they have described in many ways the strength of this bill.

This bill illustrates the compassion of America. And as has been pointed out by both speakers, it touches the lives of 280 million Americans in so many different ways, their education, health research to improve the quality of their lives, perhaps illustrated by the fact, as Dr. Zerhouni testified in front of our committee, that every 5 years, life expectancy goes up 1 year in the United States. That is a tremendous gain and a tremendous promise for the future.

And, likewise, we recognize the importance of education. The future of a nation is so much tied to that. Tom Friedman, the writer for *The New York Times*, in his book "The World is Flat," points out that we will be enormously challenged as a Nation in the years ahead by other countries that are spending a lot of money, a lot of energy, and a lot of human resources on education, because they too recognize that the winner of the future will be

determined by the way in which they can educate their people.

This bill I call the "good neighbor policy" bill, because it means that we are all good neighbors to each other. And I think it does illustrate very clearly that America is a compassionate Nation, a compassionate people, and they are willing to commit resources to helping others. In the general debate, we will mention some of those things.

I would hope all of my colleagues who are going to be voting on this bill in the next couple or 3 hours would take a look at what is in there and how important many of these programs are to the Americans. There are 500 programs covered in this bill, and each one of them, in some way or another, touches the quality of life of the people of this Nation so that every American, in one way or another, as pointed out by the gentlewoman from California, has a stake on this bill and what it does in their lives. So, hopefully, we will all reach the understanding and support this bill.

Obviously, it may not have enough to suit everybody in terms of commitment of resources. Tough decisions have to be made. Priorities have to be decided. And what we tried to do on a bipartisan basis in the subcommittee, and we have a great group of members that serve on this subcommittee from both sides, is to make those very difficult priority judgments on behalf of the American people. And as was pointed out by both of the previous speakers, we have, hopefully, accomplished that goal as best as possible given the resources that were allocated.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

I rise in opposition to this bill and to the rule.

Let it be known that November 17, 2005, is the day this Congress officially forgot the heroes of 9/11. When we vote on this conference report, we will be taking away \$125 million promised to sick 9/11 workers. This is money these men and women were promised by this Congress and by the President in 2001. But now, in an era of misdirected priorities, the President and this Congress are snatching the money back.

In fact, this bill is full of misdirected priorities when we consider that the Republican leadership will spend more on tax cuts this week, \$70 billion, than they will on education and labor programs for the entire coming year, \$68 billion.

□ 1115

You only start to realize how out of touch this Congress is with the priorities of the average American people. I hear daily from Members of Congress that we will never forget 9/11; but when we turn a cold shoulder to the men and women who were there for us in our

greatest hour of need, I cannot in good conscience vote for this bill.

The 9/11 responders are not asking for much. All they are asking for is to be treated with respect and dignity. They rushed to Ground Zero with no concern for their own safety. We were under attack, and America needed help. They responded; and as a result, many of them are very sick now. The government's response has been to fight these heroes every step of the way. Many have had their claims denied or wrapped up in red tape for months or years.

Then when not all of the money was spent in New York State, we are told this is justification for taking it back, even though the need is still great. This shell game would be comical if it were not so sad and so hard on the lives of these people.

I know this decision today is not the fault of the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA). I understand that his hands are tied on this issue. I would also like to thank a fellow New Yorker, Mr. WALSH. He has been an absolute champion for this issue in the committee.

Despite their hard work and the work of a united New York delegation, united Democrats and Republicans, the outcome today is not what it should be. The one thing I know and I can promise is that this fight is not over. I speak for all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, certainly in the New York delegation, that we are not going to stop until we meet the needs of the heroes of 9/11 and this promised money of \$125 million is restored to the budget. Anything short is just plain wrong, and it hurts the health care of our heroes.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk a little bit about some of the priorities, particularly in the education section of this bill. I have already mentioned the TRIO and GEAR UP programs for first-time college goers. Certainly those are important programs in my State and throughout the United States.

But let us look at something that we are lacking across the Nation, and that is in our math and sciences. There has been special emphasis in this bill on math and science partnerships so we can train our future engineers to compete globally.

The chairman spoke about how the world is flat. Well, if we do not have math and science education at the elementary and high school level, we are not going to be able to compete in the global market. So I am proud of the \$184 million that is going to help with training teachers.

Special education is something that I think touches many, many families throughout the United States. We hear a lot about that in our office, and I am certain every Member's office. In special ed, this bill is funding over last year's budget \$100 million. Will that meet every need for every special ed

student? No, unfortunately it will not, and it cannot. But it will go towards helping those families and that student become a productive person in their adult life.

Reading programs and improving teacher quality programs. Certainly the key to success in school is reading, but the key to success in school is a good teacher. We need to improve the teacher quality and help our teachers become not only as good as they can be but even better. And that goes also to the principals. There is a principal shortage here in our country. We have to work with our teachers so they want to become principals and guide our teachers to educate our children. Those are some of the education priorities I wanted to highlight in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this country is at a critical crossroads in terms of deciding what it stands for, what its priorities are. Our priorities should be to make decisions based on shared sacrifice and a long-term view that seeks to fight for the least powerful among us.

Unfortunately, this rule would allow legislation with a shortsighted approach to come to the floor. All of us, Democrats and Republicans, hope that medical science will provide the breakthrough to provide relief from a disease which will ease a family member's suffering.

We all worry about whether rising energy costs will force seniors to make life-and-death decisions about where to spend their limited resources.

And yet this conference report ignores those very needs. It narrowly restricts the future of all Americans so that a very few might have a bit more of a tax break. That is an approach that I hope all Members will reject.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this fair rule and the bipartisan underlying legislation which funds critical dollars to our Nation's educational system, health care delivery system, and as the gentleman from California spoke so eloquently about, our health research areas.

With this funding, low-income Americans will be better prepared for a potentially long winter. It got a little colder here today, and we know it is going to continue to be cold as we move through the winter; and this bill provides \$2 billion in LIHEAP funding. Our seniors will greatly benefit from the money appropriated, allowing CMS to conduct outreach to all Medicare beneficiaries who are now able to sign up for the new Medicare prescription drug plan.

These are all important programs, and there are others too numerous to mention. I urge my colleagues to support the rule, support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Adoption of H. Res. 558, by the yeas and nays;

Adoption of H. Res. 559, by the yeas and nays;

Motion to suspend the rules on H. Res. 500, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. Res. 72, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the vote on adoption of House Resolution 558 on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 21, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 595]

YEAS—407

Abercrombie	Bishop (UT)	Buyer
Ackerman	Blackburn	Calvert
Aderholt	Blumenauer	Camp
Akin	Blunt	Cannon
Alexander	Boehlert	Cantor
Allen	Boehner	Capito
Baca	Bonilla	Capps
Bachus	Bonner	Capuano
Baird	Bono	Cardin
Baker	Boozman	Cardoza
Baldwin	Boren	Carnahan
Barrett (SC)	Boucher	Carson
Barrow	Boustany	Carter
Bartlett (MD)	Boyd	Case
Barton (TX)	Bradley (NH)	Castle
Bass	Brady (PA)	Chabot
Bean	Brady (TX)	Chandler
Beauprez	Brown (OH)	Chocola
Berkley	Brown (SC)	Clay
Berman	Brown, Corrine	Cleaver
Berry	Brown-Waite,	Clyburn
Biggert	Ginny	Coble
Billirakis	Burgess	Cole (OK)
Bishop (GA)	Burton (IN)	Conaway
Bishop (NY)	Butterfield	Costa

Matsui
 McCarthy
 McCollum (MN)
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McIntyre
 McNulty
 Meehan
 Meek (FL)
 Meeks (NY)
 Melancon
 Menendez
 Michaud
 Millender-
 McDonald
 Miller, George
 Moore (KS)
 Moore (WI)
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal (MA)
 Obey
 Oliver
 Ortiz
 Owens
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor

Payne
 Pelosi
 Peterson (MN)
 Pomeroy
 Price (NC)
 Rahall
 Rangel
 Reyes
 Rogers (AL)
 Ross
 Rothman
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruppertsberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Sabo
 Salazar
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sanders
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schwartz (PA)
 Scott (GA)
 Scott (VA)
 Sherman
 Skelton

Slaughter
 Snyder
 Solis
 Spratt
 Strickland
 Stupak
 Tanner
 Tauscher
 Taylor (MS)
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Tierney
 Towns
 Udall (CO)
 Udall (NM)
 Van Hollen
 Velázquez
 Vislosky
 Waters
 Watson
 Watt
 Waxman
 Weiner
 Wexler
 Woolsey
 Wynn
 Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—4

Barton (TX)
 Boswell

Moran (VA)
 Stark

□ 1203

Mr. HIGGINS changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CAPITOL POLICE-CONGRESS GRID-IRON CLASSIC RAISES \$40,000 FOR CHARITY

(Mr. RENZI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RENZI. Could I ask our Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Livingood, to join us here in the well, please.

Mr. Speaker, last night at Gallaudet University on their gridiron, a group of Republicans and Democrats in bipartisan fashion came together and a little magic took place. A group of ragtag old football players among the cold and the rain and the blood and the guts went against the Capitol Police, some 20 years younger, some 7 inches taller, some 50 pounds heavier, and we won, 14-14.

But what also took place was that a bunch of United States Congressmen and other friends on this Hill who both played and did not play raised over \$40,000 for the families of those police officers who gave their lives to protect each and every one of us. We were coached in probably what might be his last game by the legendary Coach TOM OSBORNE of Nebraska. It really, truly shows that when Republicans and Democrats come together, no matter what, we can fight for a great cause and nobody can beat us.

On behalf of all our colleagues, Mr. Livingood, this is for you guys, you can keep it for 6 months, and then we want it in the Speaker’s lobby.

Thank you so much.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE 5 NAVAL AVENGER TORPEDO BOMBERS OF FLIGHT 19

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 500, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 500, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 420, nays 2, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 597]
 YEAS—420

Abercrombie
 Ackerman
 Aderholt
 Akin
 Alexander
 Allen
 Andrews
 Baca
 Bachus
 Baird
 Baker
 Baldwin
 Barrett (SC)
 Barrow
 Bartlett (MD)
 Barton (TX)
 Bass
 Bean
 Beauprez
 Becerra
 Berkley
 Berman
 Berry
 Biggert
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (GA)
 Bishop (NY)
 Bishop (UT)
 Blackburn
 Blumenauer
 Blunt
 Boehlert
 Boehner
 Bonilla
 Bonner
 Bono
 Boozman
 Boren
 Boucher
 Boustany
 Boyd
 Bradley (NH)
 Brady (PA)
 Brady (TX)
 Brown (OH)
 Brown (SC)
 Brown (TN)
 Brown, Corrine
 Brown-Waite,
 Ginny
 Burgess
 Burton (IN)
 Butterfield
 Buyer
 Calvert
 Camp
 Cannon
 Cantor
 Capito

Capps
 Capuano
 Cardin
 Cardoza
 Carnahan
 Carson
 Carter
 Case
 Castle
 Chandler
 Chocola
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Coble
 Cole (OK)
 Conaway
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Costello
 Cramer
 Crenshaw
 Crowley
 Cubin
 Cuellar
 Culberson
 Cummings
 Cunningham
 Davis (AL)
 Davis (CA)
 Davis (FL)
 Davis (IL)
 Davis (KY)
 Davis (TN)
 Davis, Jo Ann
 Davis, Tom
 Deal (GA)
 DeFazio
 Delahunt
 DeLauro
 DeLay
 Dent
 Diaz-Balart, L.
 Diaz-Balart, M.
 Dicks
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Doolittle
 Doyle
 Drake
 Dreier
 Duncan
 Edwards
 Ehlers
 Emanuel
 Emerson
 Engel

English (PA)
 Eshoo
 Etheridge
 Evans
 Everett
 Farr
 Fattah
 Feeney
 Ferguson
 Filner
 Fitzpatrick (PA)
 Flake
 Foley
 Forbes
 Fortenberry
 Fossella
 Frank (MA)
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Gallegly
 Garrett (NJ)
 Gerlach
 Gibbons
 Gilchrest
 Gillmor
 Gingrey
 Gonzalez
 Goode
 Goodlatte
 Gordon
 Granger
 Graves
 Green (WI)
 Green, Al
 Green, Gene
 Grijalva
 Gutierrez
 Gutknecht
 Hall
 Harman
 Harris
 Hart
 Hastings (FL)
 Hastings (WA)
 Hayes
 Hayworth
 Hefley
 Hensarling
 Herger
 Hersheth
 Higgins
 Hinchey
 Hinojosa
 Hobson
 Hoekstra
 Holden
 Holt
 Honda

Hooley
 Hostettler
 Hoyer
 Hulshof
 Hunter
 Hyde
 Inglis (SC)
 Inslee
 Israel
 Issa
 Istook
 Jackson (IL)
 Jackson-Lee
 (TX)
 Jefferson
 Jenkins
 Jindal
 Johnson (CT)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Johnson, Sam
 Jones (NC)
 Jones (OH)
 Kanjorski
 Kaptur
 Keller
 Kelly
 Kennedy (MN)
 Kennedy (RI)
 Kildee
 Kilpatrick (MI)
 Kind
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kingston
 Kline
 Knollenberg
 Kucinich
 Kuhl (NY)
 LaHood
 Langevin
 Lantos
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latham
 LaTourette
 Leach
 Lee
 Levin
 Lewis (CA)
 Lewis (GA)
 Lewis (KY)
 Linder
 Lipinski
 LoBiondo
 Lofgren, Zoe
 Lowey
 Lucas
 Lungren, Daniel
 E.
 Lynch
 Mack
 Maloney
 Manzullo
 Marchant
 Markey
 Marshall
 Matheson
 Matsui
 McCarthy
 McCaul (TX)
 McCollum (MN)
 McCotter
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McHenry
 McHugh
 McIntyre
 McKeon
 McKinney
 McMorris
 McNulty
 Meehan
 Meek (FL)
 Meeks (NY)
 Melancon

Menendez
 Mica
 Michaud
 Millender-
 McDonald
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller (NC)
 Miller, Gary
 Miller, George
 Mollohan
 Moore (KS)
 Moore (WI)
 Moran (KS)
 Murphy
 Murtha
 Musgrave
 Myrick
 Napolitano
 Neal (MA)
 Neugebauer
 Ney
 Northup
 Norwood
 Nunes
 Nussle
 Oberstar
 Obey
 Oliver
 Ortiz
 Osborne
 Otter
 Owens
 Oxley
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor
 Paul
 Payne
 Pearce
 Pelosi
 Pence
 Peterson (MN)
 Peterson (PA)
 Petri
 Pickering
 Pitts
 Platts
 Poe
 Pombo
 Pomeroy
 Porter
 Price (GA)
 Price (NC)
 Pryce (OH)
 Putnam
 Radanovich
 Rahall
 Ramstad
 Rangel
 Regula
 Rehberg
 Reichert
 Renzi
 Reyes
 Reynolds
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rohrabacher
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Ross
 Rothman
 Roybal-Allard
 Royce
 Ruppertsberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Ryan (WI)
 Ryun (KS)
 Sabo
 Salazar
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta

Sanders
 Saxton
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schmidt
 Schwartz (PA)
 Schwarz (MI)
 Scott (GA)
 Scott (VA)
 Sensenbrenner
 Serrano
 Sessions
 Shadegg
 Shaw
 Shays
 Sherman
 Sherwood
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simmons
 Simpson
 Skelton
 Slaughter
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (WA)
 Snyder
 Sodrel
 Solis
 Souder
 Spratt
 Stark
 Stearns
 Strickland
 Stupak
 Sullivan
 Sweeney
 Paul
 Tancredo
 Tanner
 Tauscher
 Taylor (MS)
 Taylor (NC)
 Terry
 Thomas
 Petri
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thornberry
 Tiahrt
 Tiberi
 Tierney
 Towns
 Turner
 Udall (CO)
 Udall (NM)
 Upton
 Van Hollen
 Velázquez
 Vislosky
 Walden (OR)
 Walsh
 Wamp
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Watson
 Watt
 Waxman
 Weiner
 Weldon (FL)
 Weldon (PA)
 Weller
 Westmoreland
 Wexler
 Whitfield
 Wicker
 Wilson (NM)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wolf
 Woolsey
 Wu
 Wynn
 Young (AK)
 Young (FL)

NAYS—2

Gohmert
 Boswell
 Chabot
 DeGette
 Ford

Kirk
 Foxx
 Johnson (IL)
 Kolbe
 McCrery

Moran (VA)
 Nadler
 Smith (TX)

NOT VOTING—11

□ 1217

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules

were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on November 17, I missed the vote on H.R. 500, Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the disappearance of the 5 naval Avenger torpedo bombers of Flight 19 and the naval Mariner rescue sent to search for Flight 19 (#597). I intended to vote "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to correct the RECORD. On rollcall no. 597, I was listed as voting against H. Res. 500. This was an error and I intended to vote in favor of the resolution. I would ask that this clarification appear in the appropriate part of the RECORD.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 72.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 558, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 72) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 72

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 109-77 is amended by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting the following: "December 17, 2005".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 558, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to consume much time at all. This is a continuing resolution that simply includes a change of date extending our work through December 17 in order to give the President and others enough time to review these conference reports and other pieces of legislation being sent to the administration in rapid fire.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I will not take very long on this bill either, but I do think it is important to take note of a few facts.

At the beginning of this year, it was made quite clear by the majority that they desired to finish all appropriations bills on time and that there be no omnibus appropriations bill lumping all kinds of disassociated items into the same package.

We on the minority side of the aisle have provided procedural cooperation at virtually every step of the way. We have provided time limits on debate on virtually every bill that we were asked to provide them. Those time limits were sometimes stringent and they met with objection from a number of Members. We provided unanimous consent so that the scheduling of legislation could be accelerated on numerous occasions. And despite that fact, today some 6 weeks into the fiscal year, we have four bills which are still not finished. Those bills are the Treasury, Transportation, HUD bill, the military quality of life bill, the Labor, Health, Education and Social Services bill, and the defense appropriations bill. Together, those four bills, which we have yet to complete, represent 78 percent of appropriated financing for the coming year.

Why are we still not finished? It is certainly not because of any failure on the part of the Appropriations Committee. The Appropriations Committee kept to its schedule and every bill was passed earlier than almost any year that I can recall. And yet we are here with so much unfinished business on the appropriations side of the ledger.

The reason I think is very clear. Despite the fact that the White House, the Senate and the House are all under control of the majority party, despite that fact we have reached this delay and are forced once again to seek another continuing resolution.

The reason that has occurred, in my view, is because the budget resolution was so skewed in favor of the ideological right within the majority party caucus that in the end, even a number of Republican moderates have not wanted to vote for some of these bills, most especially in the Senate. And we find that even Republican committee chairmen, like Senator SPECTER, have described one of the bills as being totally inadequate to its responsibilities.

This country is in the middle of fighting a war. That war has a huge cost, and yet the Republican majority is in pursuit of its goal of providing huge tax cuts, a huge percentage of which will be put into the pockets of the most wealthy people in this country. Their desire to do that has led them to a willingness to borrow whatever it takes in order to put the money in those pockets and then use the resulting deficit as a reason to cut back on a number of other bills.

They use it as a reason to make significant cuts in education, in health, in science, environmental protection and the rest, and then pretend that the cost of Katrina is what made them do it, when, in fact, the cost of tax cuts for persons in the top 1 percent of income in this country over the next decade will cost about 10 times as much as the cost of Katrina.

So then we are forced because of the squeeze, we are forced to endure delays, and we have to bring forward a continuing resolution such as we are doing today. And I would point out that after we have gone through all of this effort, we, in the end, are probably still going to be stuck with an omnibus appropriations bill at the end, despite the fact that the majority party indicated they were going to move heaven and Earth in order to avoid such an eventuality.

The game plan apparently is to try to pass three appropriations bills yet this week, and then that will leave us in December with the defense appropriations bill, and evidently the intention at this point is to attach everything but the kitchen sink to that bill so that we will, in effect, have a recreated omnibus.

It is my understanding that the people expect to attach the bird flu appropriations, the appropriations for Katrina supplemental, and every other special deal that somebody can conjure up and attach it to the defense bill, and then hide it behind the skirts of military spending.

The betting is that Members will want to support funding for the troops and so they will vote for whatever other garbage is attached to that bill by way of nongermane items. That, I think, would be a dysfunctional result, but that appears to be where we are headed. It could be avoided if the majority had chosen to be a little less ideological, if they had chosen to pull the rubber band just a little less tightly, and if they had chosen to cross the aisle and work in a bipartisan fashion on taxes, on spending, and on other items that affect the shape and nature of the budget. We have not seen that, and so that is why we are here today with the necessity to pass a continuing resolution.

I will vote for the continuing resolution at this point because we need to keep the government open, but I am certainly not very pleased with how we have gotten here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

The joint resolution is considered read for amendment and pursuant to House Resolution 558, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include tabular and extraneous material on the conference report to accompany H.R. 3010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 559, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 559, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of November 17, 2005, at page H10383.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I think we are going to do a bill that will make us proud to be Americans. Why do I say proud to be Americans? Because I think this bill, more than any other, illustrates the compassion of the American people. Why do we say that? Let me give you some examples that are in this bill and are funded.

□ 1230

Special education, programs to help young people that are disabled for many different reasons. It is a matter of caring for them.

Centers for Disease Control, an agency that is in 43 countries around the world watching out for us. We hear a lot about avian flu. We worry about avian flu, but the people that are really doing this are Americans in the Cen-

ters for Disease Control team that is out there in these 43 Nations, ready to stand by and alert us if it becomes a greater problem.

Education. The number one challenge of government today is to educate people to compete in the world of tomorrow. If you read the literature, you find more and more emphasis on the importance of education if a nation is to remain strong, if a nation is to provide a standard of living that the people expect, that we are used to enjoying in this country. The competition is going to get tougher in the years ahead. You only need to read Tom Friedman's book "The World is Flat" in which it is pointed out how much is happening or talk to people that have traveled, as is the case of my State superintendent, to countries in the Far East, and realize how much emphasis is being put on education. We in the United States need to do the same, and this bill recognizes that.

Education, going back to Thomas Jefferson, was designed to give all Americans through a system of public education, an equal opportunity to their future.

Head Start. It is another program under education where we say to children from areas and schools and homes where they may not get somebody reading to them, may not have a chance to get that head start they need going into the school program. Our authorizing committee, I think, took a giant step forward on Head Start in authorizing it to become more than just a welfare program, as was originally envisioned, but actually providing that people that man the Head Start program have some experience in education, that they do more than teach. The literature makes it very clear that education does not start at the first grade or even for that matter in the period ahead of that. It starts early, early on, and Head Start is another example of the compassion of America.

National Institutes of Health. We fund that in this bill. This is an agency that is researching, finding cures. Every Member I am sure has had parents in his office with a child with juvenile diabetes or with a parent with Alzheimer's, pleading with us to do more in medical research, to find cures; and this, again, illustrates the compassion of America. We have more than doubled the amount of money going to NIH in the last several years because we recognize that this is key to the health of America, to find cures, to find new ways to address the concerns of the people that all of us have seen in our office who are pleading with us to do something.

This bill has 500 programs in it, 500 programs that help Americans, and in many different ways.

Math and science, I have here a report just put out by a group commissioned by two Senators and two House Members, and it is entitled "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." Think about that title: "Rising Above the

Gathering Storm." What is the gathering storm? The gathering storm is the inability to compete as a Nation, and the thrust of this report is to rise above that. Their number one recommendation is an increase in America's talent pool by vastly improving K-12 science and mathematics education.

We make that kind of a commitment in this bill. We do give extra funding for math and science and recognize that in the world of tomorrow for our young people to compete they need to have that background.

Meals on Wheels, another example of compassion. If you have talked with people that work in this program, mostly volunteers who take out these meals, that allows seniors to stay in their homes for a longer period of time, that allows them to see somebody if they are living alone maybe once a day or more often in the week, a wonderful program in terms of caring about people.

Afterschool programs, we fund those, and those of you who live particularly in the big cities realize how important that is. I talked this morning with a young man that is running an afterschool program in the gentleman from Pennsylvania's (Mr. SHERWOOD) district, a member of our committee, where he said how much they can help people with their afterschool programs.

There are moneys in here to roll out the prescription drug program because we have a responsibility in this committee to provide for the administration of these programs.

Global AIDS. Global AIDS is in this bill, \$100 million to address, along with the money in the foreign operations bill that again is very, very important; and I think we can be proud to be Americans.

That is what I said at the outset. I say it again, that when you look at what we have funded in this bill, we have funding in this bill for 280 million Americans and over many billions of dollars to address the needs of people, that addresses things that are very important in their lives. I urge all the Members, before you rush to judgment on this bill, realize that we are in this bill doing a lot of good things for American citizens. Maybe it is not as much as you like, not many bills ever are as much as people would like that have a high degree of interest, but there is a lot of good in here.

There is a lot in here for special education. We increase it. We increase NIH. More medical research to address those problems of juvenile diabetes is an example that you hear about in your office; more money for education, Title I.

More money for community health centers. Any of us who have those in, and I hope most Members do, realize how important the community health centers are to people who have no access, who do not have a family doctor. It helps the hospitals because it means that people can go to the community

health center instead of to the emergency room. We add money for that.

Community services block grants. Think of that title. Community services, and we give block grants to communities to administer to local problems. This is an example of a program that helps local people.

LIHEAP, again, Americans recognizing that people in areas of severe weather conditions need an additional helping hand, and that is especially true in this time that we are living in where people need to address the problems of excessive fuel costs.

So I cannot say enough. I hope all of my colleagues and the Members that are listening to this, reading the bill, will take note of the fact that whereas this may not be everything you like, this bill does a lot of good. I do not think you want to go home and tell people you are against more money for special education, for those that are least fortunate, that you are against more money for education, for medical research, for LIHEAP, for global AIDS, for people around the world that are less fortunate than we are.

So, again, I say think on what the importance is of what you are doing. Take pride in America. Take pride in the compassion of the people of this Nation as embodied in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the complete table of all the funding levels included in the conference report has been printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as of November 16; and for those of my colleagues who are wondering what each of the programs might be of the 500, you can go to the RECORD of November 16 and pick out a program that you might have a special interest in.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present before the House today the conference report on the fiscal year 2006 appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies.

Many of my colleagues are aware of the difficult choices we had to make in this bill. In February, Congress received the President's FY 2006 budget request. In light of our budget deficit, the President's request assumed a one percent cut in domestic spending, exempting both defense and homeland security from this reduction. Our budget resolution approved this recommendation. This cut, taken together with required increases for implementing the prescription drug benefit program, brings our bill to \$1.4 billion below last year's level.

Let me emphasize, we made a commitment to reduce deficits. Recognizing the will of this House, we have put together a bill that best reflects the priorities of this body and does a good job of meeting the needs of the American people.

The conference report has no budget gimmicks, no emergency spending designations, and no earmarks.

So many of the programs in this bill play an important part in the lives of American people. Peter Drucker, who passed away on Friday, was considered by many to be the most influential management thinker of the past century. He said, "Successful enterprises create the conditions to allow their employees to do their best work." A successful employee needs

adequate knowledge to thrive. I believe an investment in education is an investment in people. We support teachers and students by increasing funding for Title I by \$100 million. Title I provides additional resources to low-income schools to help principals, teachers and students close education achievement gaps.

Many of my colleagues speak with me about the financial demands of special education on their local school districts. In this bill, funding for special education is increased by \$100 million.

I believe the quality of classroom teachers and principals is one of the most important factors that affect student achievement.

This bill provides \$100 million to reward effective teachers and to offer incentives for highly qualified teachers to teach in high-need schools.

We provide \$184 million for math and science initiative. TRIO, GEAR UP, Vocational Education State Grants, and Adult Education, programs have strong support from members of this body. These programs were proposed for termination in the President's budget; however, we have allocated over \$3 billion for the continuation of these important efforts.

The sharp rise in college costs continues to be a barrier to many students. This bill provides the full amount needed to hold the maximum Pell Grant at the current level of \$4,050, over \$800 million over FY 2005.

Healthcare is a critical part of a nation's economic development. Mr. Speaker, as you know, many of the Community Health Centers have served as America's health care safety net for the Nation's underserved populations. Funding for the Community Health Centers is at \$1.8 billion, an increase of \$66 million over last year.

As a result of our commitment to the National Institutes of Health, our citizens are living longer and better lives. We have provided over \$28 billion to NIH to support medical research, \$150 million over FY 2005.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program ensures that low-income households are not without heating or cooling, and provides protection to our most vulnerable populations, the elderly, households with small children, and persons with disabilities. Given the anticipated high costs of energy due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we have provided over \$2.2 billion for FY 2006.

In the Department of Labor, we have provided nearly \$3 billion for workforce training programs. These programs will ensure that our dislocated workers and most disadvantaged youth will return to gainful employment.

Mr. Speaker, in order to implement more than 400 provisions of the Medicare Modernization Act and ensure senior citizens receive the prescription drug benefits we provided in MMA, we have allocated nearly \$1 billion over the FY 2005 level to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and Social Security Administration. While benefits that both of these agencies provide come through mandatory spending via the Ways and Means Committee, this bill provides the funding for the agencies' administrative costs.

Much more could be said about this bill, but given the allocation, we have produced a fair, balanced and responsible bill that best meets the needs of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 11 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio is my friend. I have a great deal of respect for him, and I know he tries to do the best job with the tools he is given. The problem is that he has been given a totally inadequate set of tools.

"This is the budget that you get when you elect a Republican White House, a Republican House of Representatives, and a Republican Senate." I did not say that. The former majority leader of the Republican caucus said that, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

This is the day when the price of Republican tax cuts for the wealthy becomes quite clear, on this bill and on the bill that will follow, the reconciliation bill.

This is the day when this Congress chooses to walk away from its investments: obligations in education, health care, job training and the like. This is the bill which shortchanges the Social Gospel. This is the day that we pass legislation that chooses to make the lives of the most privileged among us quite a bit more pleasant because of their tax cuts while at the same time we are making the lives of the poor just a little bit more desperate.

This is a growing country. It has growing problems. It has growing opportunities. If this bill does not grow with it, then we lose ground; and we are certainly losing ground under this bill today.

This is the bill for education, health, social services, worker protection programs. This is the guts of the Federal effort to try to see to it that, regardless of one's station in life, people have the greatest possible opportunity to get ahead.

Yet, this bill is \$1.5 billion on a program-for-program basis, once you cut out the funny accounting, this is a bill which is \$1.5 billion below last year.

The Department of Labor, funding in that Department: \$37 million below the House bill, \$193 million below the Senate bill.

There are 7.5 million Americans out of work. Yet the bill cuts \$437 million out of training and employment services. That is the lowest level of adult training grants in a decade.

This bill also cuts the Community College Initiative, the President's initiative for community colleges, an effort to train workers for high-skill, high-paying jobs. It cuts that effort by \$125 million and rescinds \$125 million from funds provided last year, denying the help that the President was talking about giving to 100,000 Americans.

State unemployment insurance and employment service offices are cut by \$245 million, eliminating help for 1.9 million people.

The International Labor Affairs Bureau will certainly have a hard time protecting American workers from being undercut by child and slave labor abroad after this program has been cut by 20 percent.

In the health and human services area, this bill cuts health care to the

poor and underserved rural areas of the country. It eliminates the community access program that helps coordinate services and programs to provide health care to people who do not have it.

This bill cuts by 69 percent health professions training. This bill cuts by 73 percent funding for rural health outreach.

We have only about 10 percent of physicians in America who practice in rural areas, and yet one-fourth of the U.S. population lives in those areas. We have huge shortages of health care providers in urban, underserved areas as well, but training grants for health care professionals are cut by \$206 million.

□ 1245

We have the Maternal/Child Health Care Block Grant. That program is cut by 20 percent below fiscal 2002 levels, and we have a 24 percent cut in block grants for State health departments. And then, all of us are going to run home and brag about how much we have done to prepare the country for public health disasters.

My friend talked about the National Institutes of Health. We have the smallest increase for NIH in 36 years, and under that budget, because funding for NIH does not keep pace with inflation, we will actually see 500 fewer research grants coming out of NIH than we would have seen 2 years ago. We have effectively ended the President's initiative to expand the number and the capacity of community health centers around the country, \$238 million less than the President requested. For the low-income heating assistance program, our oil companies, one company, \$10 billion profit the last quarter. We expect to see natural gas prices rise 46 percent, home heating oil prices rise 28 percent, and yet we freeze the program that is supposed to provide help to people to pay their bills so they do not have to choose between heating and eating, and we only serve 15 percent of the persons who are eligible to be served under that program.

Education: This is the first cut in education funding in a decade. Education programs under the No Child Left Behind rubric are cut by \$784 million below last year. That is \$13 billion below the authorization, and on a cumulative basis, it is some \$40 billion short of what we promised we would have provided these past years since we passed No Child Left Behind.

Title I is up \$100 million. That is in comparison to a \$600 million increase that came from that well-known "liberal" George W. Bush. Special education, it is up \$100 million in comparison to the \$508 million request from the President of the United States.

Because we mandated that local school districts provide service to special education children, we are supposed to be providing 40 percent of the cost. This bill actually reduces the Federal share of that cost from 18.6 to

18 percent. That is going in the wrong direction.

The Comprehensive School Reform Program, totally wiped out. The Goodling Even Start Program, named after Bill Goodling, the former Republican chairman of the Education Committee, cut by 56 percent. Education technology cut by 45 percent, and that comes on top of a 28 percent cut that was made last year. We cut Safe and Drug-Free Schools by 20 percent in this bill. We freeze afterschool programs for the 4th year in a row. That means that there are 14 million kids in this country who want those services who will not get them. And I could go on and on.

On higher education, the college board tells us that the 4-year cost of attending a public university has increased by \$3,100 over the past 5 years. The President's answer was to raise the Pell Grant maximum by 100 bucks. A \$100 solution to a \$3,100 problem. The Congress said "No, that is too much." The House cut it to \$50. This conference report totally eliminates it, totally eliminates it. No increase in the maximum grant. And then in the reconciliation bill that follows today, they are going to add \$8 billion more in costs to students who borrow money to go to college. And then this bill freezes all other student aid programs, SEOG, Work-Study, Perkins, TRIO, GEAR UP. It freezes title VI foreign language program.

The backlog at Social Security, those caseload backlogs are going to increase. This bill provides \$189 million less than the President asked, \$80 million less than was in the House bill, \$130 million less than the Senate bill. And we do all of this in order to free up necessary room so the Republican Party can deliver on its \$100,000-plus tax cuts for people who make 1 million bucks.

This is going in the wrong direction. These priorities are wrong. This bill is a disgrace. The gentleman would have provided a much better bill if he had been given a decent allocation, but he was not. So he did not have the tools to do it. There is no reason to vote for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), a very productive and important member of our subcommittee.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman REGULA for yielding me this time. And I thank him for not only his work product today, but for his many, many years of service to this country and to this Congress. He has been a remarkable leader throughout his career, and there is no one in this House who can question his sincerity or his knowledge of the issues that he is responsible for.

I rise today in strong support of this bill. We will hear much from the other side of the aisle about what is missing from this bill, why we are not spending

enough in this bill. We are spending \$142 billion on the needs of our American citizens. That is more money than the entire budgets, the entire budgets, of Russia, China, Germany, and we could throw in 15 or 20 other countries. This is more money than they spend on their entire budget including their military. It is a pretty remarkable commitment to our Nation and to our fellow citizens. This is money that does not come easy. This does not come from God. This comes out of people's pockets.

We are going to hear an awful lot about these tax cuts. Well, we have tried to reduce the tax burden on Americans who are paying for these benefits. They pay for these benefits out of the goodness of their heart. First of all, they have to pay taxes to help support our government. We take that money, we turn it around, and most of the money we spend goes toward helping our fellow Americans, and that is what this bill is all about.

Congressman Bill Natcher, God rest his soul, used to refer to this as "the people's bill." This is the bill that helps educate our kids, that helps keep us healthy, that pays for Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid and all of our Federal health programs. And I do not know how anyone, except for nibbling around the edges, could criticize an effort where we are spending these tremendous amounts of money to help those among us who are less fortunate.

But there is also the argument that we will hear on the other side of the aisle about our deficits, that our deficits are too high, our deficits are growing, our deficits, our deficits, our deficits; but every time we bring a bill to the floor, there is not enough money in it. They cannot have both ways. They cannot rail against deficits and then tell us that we need to spend more money on every program in the Federal budget.

There is no question these are difficult choices, but I think if I were going to entrust my decisions on these things to anyone, it would be to Congressman REGULA, who has been doing this for so many years.

There are a lot of problems in our country, lots of them, and we have them in our home towns, our big cities, our rural areas, and this is an effort to deal with those problems.

For example, our party, we have, since we have become the majority, provided billions and billions more in dollars for education, remembering that the education dollar, public education, was 95 percent State and local funds. Now it is about 92 because we have so dramatically increased our contribution to that. And yet 50 percent of the kids who start high school in the United States today do not finish high school. That is a tragedy and it is atrocious, and it shows it is not just about the money. It is about parents, it is about school boards, it is about teachers, it is about kids, getting it right, taking a serious look at

our public educational system in this country and realizing, as so many have said, that we are headed in the wrong direction. We are increasing resources to try to help with that, and we are trying to improve our math and science education because we are not competing with the rest of the world. But this bill makes a valiant effort to fund those needs.

We are also providing billions and billions of dollars for health care. In this bill we are not even talking about the brand new Medicare prescription drug benefit, the \$400 billion prescription drug benefit that Congress just enacted that is just taking place today. Again, what a remarkable response by the Government of the United States to the needs of our senior citizens, because everybody knows that health care in this country has changed. People do not just go to the hospital anymore to get an operation. They go to the doctor, they get prescription drugs. The prescription drugs help them to live long, healthy, quality lives. And because of these programs like Medicare, Medicare prescription drugs, Social Security, we now have the healthiest and wealthiest group of senior citizens that the world has ever seen. This is a continuing commitment to that.

I urge my colleagues to forget about the nibbling around the edges and support a good solid bill that will help our fellow Americans.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman brags about the additional money that the Republican Congress has put into education. President Clinton and the Democrats had to drag them kicking and screaming into providing that money. We provided \$19 billion more in education since they took over the Congress than would have been provided if we had simply passed the Republican House bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON).

(Mr. JACKSON of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I know the subcommittee chairman, the ranking member, and the majority and minority staff, did the best they could under the circumstances. But I think cutting title VII health professions by 69 percent, eliminating some title VII programs entirely, is draconian and unconscionable.

Since I started serving on this subcommittee almost 7 years ago, I have fought to end disparities, disparities in employment, disparities in education, disparities in health. And health disparities are real. If one is black in this country, their life expectancy is 66 years. If one is white in this country, it is 74 years. Infant mortality is twice as high for African American babies as it is for white babies.

Fortunately, institutions like the Institute of Medicine of the National

Academy of Sciences have laid out a framework on how to end these disparities. One of the recommendations of the IOM was to increase the number of minority health professions. This mark does exactly the opposite, cutting health professions by almost \$200 million.

Mr. Speaker, in the Centers of Excellence Program, this cut will eliminate 30 programs at Minority Serving Institutions, negatively impacting approximately 1,000 under-represented minority students and almost 180 under-represented faculty at these schools.

In the Faculty Loan Repayment Program, approximately 40 under-represented staff persons will lose their jobs. In the Health Careers Opportunity Program, 7,000 minority disadvantaged students will be negatively impacted and 3,000 K through 12 students will be negatively impacted.

Mr. Speaker, this assault on minority serving programs is unjustified and overtly irresponsible. I think that a society says a lot about the way it treats its most vulnerable of its citizens. I believe that we live in a United States and, like a chain, we are only as strong as our weakest link. By leaving some of our citizens behind, we prove that we are not strong and compassionate but weak and uncaring.

I keep hearing Members of this body say, Jessie, this is a tight budget year. Mr. Speaker, this is a tight year. It was not created by immaculate conception. Some of us voted to make it a tight budget year. Some of us voted to approve the budget resolution. Saying it is going to be a tough budget year is like a farmer saying he is going to have a bad harvest because he did not plant any seeds. Mr. Speaker, when Congress approved this budget resolution, we did not plant any seeds and nothing will grow this year, not because of a natural disaster like a drought, but because of our own making in this Congress. Shame on us. The chairman and the subcommittee did the best they could, but this is a terrible mark, and I urge a "no" on this bill.

□ 1300

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), a distinguished member of our subcommittee.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Labor, Health, Human Services and Education bill and say I am very proud to serve on this committee. It is an important committee that serves the needs of so many Americans in their daily lives. I want to say congratulations to and state my great admiration for Chairman REGULA in these difficult times when he as the leader of this committee has had to make some very tough choices.

The previous speaker said shame on us. I am not ashamed of this bill at all. I am very proud of the work we are doing. I am proud, for instance, of the \$253 million increase to the National Institutes of Health funding medical

research that can make such a difference to the health of Americans and to the health of this Nation, making us a healthy Nation. I am proud that we have doubled the funding for the National Institutes of Health while I have been on this committee.

I am proud of the funding for the community health centers which have been raised to \$1.8 billion, serving the uninsured and the underinsured. I have a community health center in my district. It is a wonderful community partnership serving literally thousands of people that were not being served otherwise. I am very proud of that funding, and I am very proud of community health centers and what they do.

I am also proud about the funding for LIHEAP. It is \$115 million over the last year, serving the poorest citizens in our country, helping with heating their homes, and those are citizens that are going to have to get up every day and decide what bills they are going to pay. I am proud of the work we have given them towards purchasing their prescription drugs. This funding for LIHEAP really makes a difference in their lives every single day.

I was a teacher before I left teaching and went into business, and then came to Congress. I have watched our math and science scores, how we worked so hard to bring those scores up so we can be competitive in the world. Now we have \$184 million for a math and science partnership to strengthen our math and science education in K-12. This is something we have to do, and we have talked about it year after year after year to put that money where it is served best so we are not importing our scientists, we are growing and building our scientists. This is a bill I am very proud of. It is a difficult time, and the chairman has done a great job.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman claimed there is a \$115 million increase in here for low income heating assistance. There is not. The formula grant has been increased by \$115 million, but the contingency portion of the program has been reduced by \$115 million. The net result: no help in the teeth of huge energy increases.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for all of his work on the legislation, and I thank the chairman of the subcommittee for all of his work. Like so many others who have already spoken, it is clear they were not dealt a very fair hand, or the hand that they needed, to take care of needs of this country.

I am most disappointed in the funding of No Child Left Behind. At a time when school districts are entering into the most expensive part of No Child Left Behind, when they are being required to restructure entire school districts, entire schools, when they are

trying to meet the demand and the requirement of a law that we have a highly qualified teacher in every classroom, which requires substantial retraining of teachers, the attracting of new teachers, the paying of incentives for teachers to go to the most difficult schools, at that very time the Federal Government walks away from the commitment under No Child Left Behind. The Federal Government starts to decrease its participation when the States and the school districts and our schools need it more than ever.

It really shows such little confidence in the future of our young children. It shows such little confidence in the ability of our school districts to restructure themselves to meet the demands being placed upon them. We see cuts here in technology grants that are absolutely essential for the future education of our children. We see teacher quality grants cut. Those are absolutely essential to improve the quality of our teachers in our classroom so they can engage in that kind of professionalism.

What is most startling is that these cuts in education come at a time when, I am not saying put more money in education, Mr. OBEY is not telling you that, but the American business community is telling you this is the most crucial thing you can do. The American Electronics Association, made up of some of the most successful companies in the history of this country, their number one priority was to fully fund No Child Left Behind. The Semiconductor Association: fully fund No Child Left Behind, put money into graduate school education, put money into highly qualified teachers. And this budget goes in exactly the other direction.

We do not have the confidence that is necessary and demanded of this country in the future and the confidence in these young people and the necessary investments to be made in them. It is so discouraging to see the lack of confidence in our young people that this budget demonstrates.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), a member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to say back during the spring we went through our annual budget process. The Budget Committee has testimony from all sectors of society and the government who are affected by the budget. It is a good debate.

In the final analysis, that budget came to the floor and after weeks and months of discussion and arm twisting, it passed by a vote of 214-212. I may be wrong on this, I do not think any of the Democrats voted for it. Most of the Democrats, I would say, are very consistent saying we should be spending more money and, therefore, they voted against it. But there are other Democrats who are saying look at the deficit, look at this, look at that. Boy, these Republicans are spending too

much. There is clearly a mixed signal here, and clearly some dissension in the Democratic ranks.

But when you pass a budget in the spring and it is passed by this body and the other body, then the subcommittees of Appropriations have to follow that budget. That is what this does. Sometimes making these decisions is very, very tough.

This bill actually eliminates 29 lower-priority programs. One of the programs I am a supporter of, the National Youth Sports Program, I like that program. They operated in Savannah. But when you look at the context of some of the other programs and you realize this is run by the NCAA, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and they are the same people who put on the Rose Bowl, the Rose Bowl alone generates \$30 million in revenue. Perhaps they can replace the \$18 million that Congress is putting into it right now. There are ways to keep these programs alive even though the Federal Government is not picking up the tab for them.

It is my hope on these 29 programs that are terminated, that the local, the State level will step in, the private sector will step in; and a lot of what they are doing are duplicated in other programs. I have to say that these are very important.

I have to say also, Mr. Speaker, that I had a lot of local programs that were eliminated. These are programs which I have worked very hard on over the years to try to get into this budget. Those were the earmarks: Memorial Hospital in Savannah, Georgia; St. Joseph's Hospital in Savannah, Georgia; a project for the city of Moultrie; the Warner Robbins Aviation Museum; the Civil Rights Museum in Savannah, Georgia; and Brunswick Hospital. These were a lot of good programs that I personally hoped to get in, things that were within the budget that were doable. And yet in the end because of the legislative process, all earmarks had to be eliminated.

I was not happy about that, but I understand. In the bigger picture of things, you have to do what the body can pass, what there are votes for.

In this case, where did the money go? It went to community health clinics. It goes to Medicare modernization and medical research.

Incidentally, we talk about the NIH. The funding for the NIH has doubled under Republican leadership under a commitment made by the former Speaker, Mr. Gingrich. I have to say, I am a little disappointed in what we have gotten for our money. I have not seen a plethora of medical solutions and new devices and vaccines and all kinds of other research that I had hoped doubling the NIH budget would give us. Nonetheless, NIH still gets an increase under this bill.

The bill also restores community service block grants. Lots of things like the Job Corps program are funded in this bill. Despite its tightness in

some areas, Mr. REGULA has worked with the committee to put on what I think is a solidly balanced bill and face the economic realities of today with today's budget.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, reluctantly I stand here and oppose this legislation, primarily because we did earmark some money last year for programs, and now we are just cutting them off period, no prewarning, no salaries, no billing rent, no heat, nothing, just kicking them out. I do not think that is the right thing to do.

If you had grandfathered those programs in, I believe it would be a lot better. I would like to ask the gentleman from Ohio, do you save any money or does the money just go back into the other programs that your committee decided ought to get funding?

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. In terms of earmarks, a proposal was made that we take an additional \$2 billion as emergency spending, and half of that would have been for earmarks. But we did not do that.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Does the actual number save any money? Does it save any money?

Mr. REGULA. The fact that there are no earmarks?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Yes.

Mr. REGULA. Absolutely, a billion dollars.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Just remember, you should have grandfathered those existing programs in place. You just killed them.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I reluctantly rise in opposition to the fiscal year 2006 Labor-HHS Conference Report. However, I wanted to express my sincere appreciation to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), the ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), and their staffs for their hard work on this legislation.

The bill should address many of our most important priorities, from education funding, worker training, to biomedical research and public health activities. Unfortunately, it falls short.

For the first time in 10 years, the bill actually cuts funding for the Department of Education. The bill provides the smallest increase for the National Institutes of Health in 36 years. Despite the fact that college costs have increased by 34 percent since 2001, the bill freezes the maximum Pell grant for the fourth year in a row.

At a time when States are being asked to bear an increasingly larger burden for preparing for and responding to public health emergencies, this bill cuts funds for State and local health departments by \$127 million.

And the bill includes a rescission of \$125 million from New York State Worker's Compensation Programs intended for sick and injured workers from September 11. The President made a \$20 billion commitment to the people of New York following September 11. The rescission breaks that promise.

While these and other programs are on the chopping block today, the bill provides a \$10 million increase for abstinence-until-marriage programs, despite mounting evidence of the scientific and medical inaccuracy of their curricula and ineffective results.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to express my continued concern with the Weldon refusal clause included in this bill. For over 30 years, there have been Federal laws that allow doctors, nurses, and hospitals to refuse to provide abortion services because of their religious beliefs. However, this provision extends that protection to HMOs, insurance companies, and makes no exception for medical emergencies.

States that attempt to protect access to health services can be denied all of their Federal health, education, and labor funding. My colleagues, we had an alternative to this misguided and dangerous language. The Senate bill contained a provision that would protect doctors' consciences while ensuring that women still have access to the services and referrals they need.

Unfortunately, the House majority rejected the Senate's reasonable compromise in favor of maintaining a policy designed to limit women's access to reproductive health services.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of these flaws that I simply cannot support this final conference report.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON).

□ 1315

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding, and I want to commend the gentleman for his outstanding work on this piece of legislation. The chairman is, I believe, well noted on both sides of the aisle for being a very compassionate and caring person, but as well a responsible adult.

When I travel around my congressional district, yes, it is true there are certain groups that would like to see areas of this bill increased. The things I hear overwhelmingly and most loudly is that these are difficult times. We have had tremendous outlays and expenditures with Hurricane Katrina, the war in Iraq and that we really need to hold the line on spending. And what this bill does, I believe, is unprecedented in my 11 years of being here in the House of Representatives. It actually reduces spending from last year. So this is not Washingtonspeak gimmicks where you take a 7 percent increase and reduce it to a 6.9 percent increase and scream and yell about that being a cut. This is a real reduction in

spending, and I think it is quite impressive. It eliminates 21 existing programs and cancels eight new programs.

What Chairman REGULA has done is adopted a philosophy which I think everybody in the Congress should adopt, look at programs very seriously and are they getting the job done. And if they are not, they should be eliminated. And contrary to Reagan's statement that the only thing that has eternal life in Washington, D.C. is a Federal program, Chairman REGULA has been able to reduce and eliminate 21 existing programs because they were not effective.

Within that context, the bill includes, I think, a number of important increases along the lines of what I believe the American people want to see. They are small in the budget realities we are dealing with now, nonetheless, they are real. The Pell Grant amount was increased so that we could keep the size of the grant the same. Additionally, there are some small increases for special education and title 1. I want to particularly commend the chairman for holding the line on the Weldon language. We have had in this bill for, as I understand it, decades, conscience protections for health care providers that do not want to perform abortions.

But in recent years, very aggressive abortion rights advocates have been putting pressure, using regulatory agencies and State governments and courts on hospitals and other institutions to begin performing abortions when the officials and the workers in those institutions did not want to do that. And what we have done is held the existing language from last year, which, I think, is the right policy for the Congress. It is the right policy for the American people. So I commend all my colleagues to vote for this bill. It is a good piece of legislation. It is the right thing for this country at this time and our history with the challenges that we face today.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the work of this subcommittee has always reflected our priorities as a Nation, helping provide services that help us meet our most basic needs, health, our children's education, our scientific research, challenges only the Federal Government has the ability, the capacity and the resources to help us meet. The problem with the funding in this conference report is that it fails to meet that threshold.

Worker training, funded at levels below last year. The National Institutes of Health, where this subcommittee made historic progress, doubling our investment in medical research. Name the disease, childhood leukemia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, HIV, the work of the NIH has prolonged or improved the life of every single American.

The funding level for the National Institutes of Health does not even meet inflation. Health professions are cut in half. Head Start is funding below last year's level. And with the cost of a college education skyrocketing, this conference report flat funds Pell Grants, meaning the maximum award is exactly the same as it was last year.

Funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, at last year's level, will prove disastrous for low income families.

This bill fails to invest in any of the priorities important to the American people. And the American people are tired of the Congress spending trillions in tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans at the same time they are told we simply do not have the resources to invest in things that impact their daily lives. We can make those investments, but only, only if we make them a priority.

That is what the American people want and expect from their government. You ask any middle class family what is more important to them, tax cuts for wealthy Americans, or lowering the cost of health care, home heating costs or college. They will tell you they want something that makes a difference in their lives and their family's lives. Vote against this conference report.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise simply to express profound gratitude for the leadership that Chairman RALPH REGULA has provided in bringing this extraordinary measure to the floor. I also commend the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, the gentleman from California, for his leadership.

The challenge of being in the spending branch of government is to fund the Nation's priorities and to live within our means. And this legislation for fiscal year 2006, with Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, does just that.

The story goes that Chairman RALPH REGULA was at the White House, saw Ronald Reagan and they talked about the fence at the Reagan ranch. And a day later, RALPH REGULA received a handwritten set of instructions about how to build a fence that is on the wall of his office today.

What is clear today to House conservatives is that RALPH REGULA learned more than just how to build a fence from Ronald Reagan. He learned how to fund the Nation's priorities with the fiscal discipline that characterizes this governing party. And for that, I am grateful.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I too want to commend those who worked to get the earmarks out of the bill. But I just wanted to point out that not all the earmarks are out of the bill. In the bill,

we have \$1.25 million for the Center For Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law at the University of Hawaii, \$1.2 million for the Hawaiian Department of Education for school construction, \$2 million to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians for cultural and education funding, \$5 million for America's Promise.

Now these may well be good programs, but they should not be funded in this bill that says that all the earmarks are gone.

We also violated a House rule where we were naming two Federal facilities after sitting Members of Congress. The Center for Disease Control headquarters is being renamed the Arlen Specter Headquarters and Emergency Operations Center. We are renaming the communication center at the CFDC the Thomas R. Harkin Global Communications Center. We should not be doing this. If we are getting rid of the earmarks, we ought to get rid of all of them.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished minority whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) left the floor. The majority party neither funds the appropriate priorities in this bill nor meets its responsibilities for fiscal sound management of the Federal Government. It has taken this Nation \$3 trillion into additional debt in the last 56, 58 months. During the last 4 years of the Clinton administration, we did not have to increase the debt once, not once.

Mr. Speaker, this appropriations conference report betrays our Nation's values and its future. It is neither compassionate, conservative nor wise, and I will vote against it.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, including my Republican friends on the Labor Health Committee, claim that there is little they can do to improve the funding levels in this key domestic program. They say that they have no options, no alternative, that they are only complying with the funding levels dictated by the Republican budget resolution, a resolution which results in an additional almost trillion dollars in additional debt.

But let me remind them, you voted for that budget resolution and you cannot have it both ways. You cannot vote for draconian cuts in April and disclaim responsibility when those cuts are enacted in November.

At a time when we should be striving to make American schools and American students the best and the most competitive in the world, this bill insures that our Nation falls further and further behind. Unconscionably, this conference report cuts the Federal investment in education below current levels by \$59 million, for the first time in a decade. And it cuts funding for No

Child Left Behind by \$784 million, 3.2 percent cut, below the current level. This means that we have now reached a \$40 billion cumulative shortfall below the amount we promised our children when President Bush signed this bill into law. We do nothing in this bill to make higher education more accessible.

In my State, and I am sure in the chairman's State, and the chairman I do not criticize. He is given what he is given and he does the best he can. But in my state, costs have gone up for college kids and their families. Despite the President's 2000 campaign promise to increase the maximum Pell Grant to \$5,100, despite that promise, this bill freezes the maximum Pell Grant at over 25 percent below that, at \$4,050. For the fourth year in a row, that promise has been broken, while tuition and fees have increased 46 percent since 2001.

However, the inappropriate funding levels in this conference report should not surprise anyone. They are the inevitable consequence, and I am glad my friend from Indiana has returned, because the budget deficits confronting this Nation and the underfunding of priorities in this Nation are the inevitable consequence of the fiscal policies of the Republican majority and this administration, policies that starve the government resources.

So let everyone here and everyone watching at home understand, the funding levels contained in this conference report are the direct consequence of the Republican Party's failed economic policies that have spawned record budget deficits. Why? Because the next bill that is coming down the line will cut taxes by some \$70 billion. As the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) asked, is it saving money? It is not. And those failed policies are the proximate cause of this woefully underfunded and unacceptable conference report.

When we started on this budget disaster, Jim Nussle, Republican leader of the Budget Committee said this: "We do not touch Social Security. It does not touch Medicare. In fact, this budget accomplishes the largest reduction of the debt held by the public in our history. The bill does not change in one way, shape or form. And by the end of 10 years, this budget will have eliminated the debt held by the public."

In fact, it has taken, contrary to Mr. NUSSLE's representations, \$3 trillion, with a T, additional debt has been accumulated under these budgets. All they do is underfund priorities and adopt fiscally irresponsible policies. What a shame for America. Together America can do better.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the budget and appropriation bills that we pass here in the House are reflective of

our values as leaders in this country. H.R. 3010 reflects very poorly on this Congress. Four years ago, when we passed the No Child Left Behind Act, we told schools that we wanted them to be accountable for results and that we would provide them with the resources necessary to achieve these results.

Today, we know that the President and the Republican Congress have utterly failed to keep the bipartisan promise to students, to parents, to teachers, to provide schools with the resources called for by No Child Left Behind.

If we pass this bill, we will have shortchanged our Nation's children by more than \$40 billion over the past 4 years. This is only one of the many, many, many ways that this bill fails to invest in the American people and their children. And I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

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Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to say a few words about why I think this bill is a bill that says that the best days of this country are behind us, not before us. I call attention to some statistics, statistics that say the high school dropout over the course of their life will earn \$260,000 less than a graduate. This legislation, I think, does very little to support more students graduating from high school when it cuts after-school programs by 25 percent. If you spread that across 23 million high school dropouts in this country, that adds up to \$50 billion a year less in taxes.

So if we are really concerned about generating more taxes, we ought to be investing in our people, not taking away the kinds of resources that contribute to their ability to become greater taxpayers in this country.

Mr. Speaker, \$1 invested in preschool leaves \$7 saved in welfare, health care and criminal justice. Let's invest in our people.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

A previous majority Member said today that this bill represented fiscal responsibility. The fact is the Republican Party will provide, over the next decade, \$1.2 trillion in tax cuts to people who make over \$1 million a year. Yet in this bill, they will freeze student loans, they will allow people without health care to increase in number by 2 million, they will provide the first cut in education in a decade, they will cut safe and drug-free schools by 20 percent, and they will slash the President's initiative for math and science education.

In the teeth of the fact that they have given \$14 billion in subsidies to the big energy companies, they then say to low-income people who have to pay those higher prices, "Sorry. Despite the fact you're going to have a

huge increase in home heating costs, we're not going to give you a dime in additional money in this bill."

That is what they do. What we are going to see today in the reconciliation bill and in this bill is a double whammy on the most vulnerable people in this society. That is wrong morally and it is wrong economically. We hear a lot of talk on this floor about preserving life. Yet this program is going to cut maternal and child health care by 20 percent below the 2001 level. How is that going to encourage women to carry their babies to term?

This bill falls far short of our responsibilities in meeting the growing economic and social needs of this country. It ought to be defeated. We should not put tax cuts for millionaires ahead of providing basic education, basic health care and basic job protection to America's working people.

I urge a "no" vote on the conference report.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I hope you will all weigh carefully what your opportunity here is in terms of voting for this bill. An opportunity to improve health research, an opportunity to improve education in Title I, an opportunity to provide more money for special education, an opportunity to ensure that LIHEAP is funded for those in need, an opportunity to develop community health centers where poor people can go to get help, where they can avoid having to run to the emergency room. So many positive things.

As I said at the outset, this is a bill that makes you proud to be an American. It illustrates the compassion of the American people. We have heard from the other side how we are not doing enough. Let me point out that in 1996 shortly after the Republican Party became a majority in 1994 and took responsibility, in 1996, the total of this bill was \$65 billion. Here 10 years later, this bill is \$142.5 billion, more than double the amount of money that has been committed to the compassionate programs of America, education, job training, medical research. We could go on and on.

We heard the gentleman from California talk about qualified teachers. I want to mention a special program in here. It is new. \$100 million to help get better qualified teachers in every classroom. Over and over again we hear how important the teacher is to the education system. Not only teachers but principals, good principals, good schools. We have recognized the importance of this by committing \$100 million. This bill has \$2 billion for homeland security. Again, this is important to the American people. Homeland security in the form of CDC, checking around the world in 43 locations to ensure that avian flu does not reach our shores.

I could go on and on about the compassion of this bill in terms of helping people. TRIO and GEAR-UP, programs to help people get into college, to get

that higher education that we all recognize is vital to their future and to the future of this Nation.

And let me say to those of you who think that, well, the key to this is to defeat the bill. If you defeat the bill, what is going to happen, in all likelihood, it will give these responsibilities that are embodied in this bill, the important programs for America will get rolled into some form of an omnibus bill and will be a continuing resolution. If that were to happen, priorities that are embodied in the bill would be lost, the things that are so important to all the Members of this body, but, moreover, far more important to the people of America, 280 million people.

I urge a strong, positive vote for the bill so we can continue to take pride in America and the compassion of the American people.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this conference report funding the Departments of Labor, Health, Education, and other agencies.

While not a perfect bill, it is a good bill. It represents another step in this year's appropriation cycle for fiscal responsibility.

Earlier this year, Congress passed a budget. It was a tough budget that reflected the difficult financial times we face.

It reined in spending on non-security activities for the first time in a generation. This is not an easy task. It is tough to cut the budget.

The conference report before us today \$142.5 billion. This is precisely the House-passed level, and nearly a half a billion dollars less than last year.

To arrive at this number, the conferees had to work hard to reduce the levels proposed by the other body that were \$2.6 billion higher than the accounts in the House-passed bill.

The conference report before us today does not include emergency spending designations or funding gimmicks as proposed by the other body.

The bill before us is lean. It prioritizes spending, contains some real cuts, and provides some resources for high priority programs.

The bill proposes to terminate 29 programs, including 20 of the 50 programs proposed for termination in the bill that originally passed in our chamber. Other programs proposed for termination by the House are cut substantially from last year's level.

While reducing the overall size of the bill from last year, the House conferees were able to increase funding in critical area, such as Pell Grants, Special Education, and low income heating assistance and bioterrorism preparedness.

For Community Health Centers, the final conference agreement provides \$1.8 billion, \$66 million more than last year.

The conference report includes \$100 million for a Teacher Incentive Fund that will be a pilot program helping reward teachers with the incentives to boost the quality of our education.

Generally, the increases in the conference report aren't big enough for our Democratic friends but they reflect our effort to do the best we could with the limited resources we had available.

I urge my colleagues to support the conference report.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Conference Report.

This bill inadequately funds virtually every area of need. It slashes \$1.5 billion from our country's critical health, human services, education and labor programs.

While the Bush administration has never fully funded the No Child Left Behind Act, this bill goes a step further by actually cutting total Federal education funding for the first time in a decade—cutting No Child Left Behind by \$14 billion below the authorized level, slashing special education, safe and drug free schools, education technology grants and freezing the maximum Pell grant award for the fourth year in a row despite rising tuition costs.

While people are trying to get re-trained because their jobs have been outsourced overseas, this bill cuts adult job training by \$31 million and youth job training by \$36 million.

At a time when we are trying to prepare our country for the aging of the baby boomers and threat of pandemic flu, this bill cuts funding for healthcare. It cuts the CDC's budget by \$249 million and provides the smallest percentage increase to NIH—less than 1 percent—since 1970. It doesn't provide any money for pandemic flu preparedness and eliminates 10 critical health care programs, including trauma care and the health community access program and cuts the health professions training grants by 69 percent making it even harder to recruit qualified health professionals.

The bill before us today would also freeze funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, LIHEAP, at \$2.18 billion, counting both basic formula grants and emergency grants—the FY 2005 level.

LIHEAP serves about 5 million households, the majority of which have at least one member who is elderly, disabled, or a child under age five.

LIHEAP appropriations have failed to keep up with rapid increases in energy costs over the past several years.

The conference report is freezing LIHEAP even though consumers are expected to pay 52 percent more for natural gas, 30 percent more for home heating oil, and 11 percent more for electricity this winter.

Back in August, the Republican majority heralded the passage of their massive energy bill, a bill that contained \$14 billion in tax breaks—most of them for wealthy oil, gas, coal and nuclear industries. At the time, they argued that their bill was "balanced" because, among other things, it provided \$5.1 billion in annual authorizations for the LIHEAP program.

But now, in this bill, we see that Republicans are not willing to fully fund LIHEAP. Under this bill, the Republicans would freeze LIHEAP funding at last year's level, despite the skyrocketing prices consumers will be paying for natural gas and home heating oil this winter.

Later today, the Republicans will be bringing up their Reconciliation bill, a bill that provides an additional \$1 billion for LIHEAP. But in the Energy and Commerce Committee, the Republicans voted against an amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. RUSH, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. GREEN, and myself to increase LIHEAP funding up to the full \$5.1 billion level. The Republican leadership isn't even going to allow Democrats to offer an amendment to increase LIHEAP funding up to that level.

The Republicans won't fully fund LIHEAP because they have other priorities. Their budget makes that quite clear. Tax cuts for millionaires, tax cuts for the giant oil companies, weakening environmental regulations for their business cronies. Those are the priorities for the Republican-controlled Congress. Funding for education, health care and low-income home energy assistance so that seniors on fixed incomes, and poor families can heat their homes this winter, are not their priorities.

I urge a "no" vote on this bill.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong opposition to the ill-conceived Conference Report for H.R. 3010, the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006.

This bill is flawed in so many ways and is a disservice to the American people. It is the latest move in the steady drumbeat of a Republican legislative agenda that makes working and middle class Americans pay for the tax cuts that benefit the ultra-wealthiest Americans. And it comes at a time when we are confronting the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the huge costs of waging the ongoing war in Iraq.

Overall, this conference report cuts education, health care, and human services by \$1.5 billion below what was spent on these efforts last year. Meanwhile, Republicans plan to spend \$11 billion this week on a capital gains and dividend income tax cut that will provide 53 percent of its benefit to people making more than \$1 million. Overall, Republicans will spend more on tax cuts this week alone, \$70 billion, than on both the Department of Education and the Department of Labor, \$68 billion, for an entire year.

These are just a few victims of the Republican bill.

No Child Left Behind funding is cut by \$784 million, the first time NCLB will have been cut since the law was enacted. Title I, which is the core of NCLB's efforts to improve reading and math skills, receives the smallest increase in 8 years—only \$100 million—which means 3.1 million low-income children will be left behind.

The maximum Pell grant is frozen for the fourth straight year, and no new funding is provided for all other student financial aid and support programs, even though college costs have increased by \$3,095, 34 percent, since 2001.

Consumers are expected to pay 46 percent more for natural gas and 28 percent more for home heating oil this winter, yet Republicans refused to increase funding for LIHEAP home heating assistance, which helps keep the heat on for low-income seniors and children.

Nearly 46 million Americans are without health insurance yet Republicans provide virtually no funding for new Community Health Centers beyond those approved last year. Republicans also eliminate the Healthy Communities Access Program, \$83 million, and state planning grants to improve health care coverage, \$11 million.

The conference agreement does not include the \$8.1 billion in emergency funding provided in the Senate bill for pandemic flu preparedness, or any part of the \$7.1 billion requested by the administration for that purpose.

The conference agreement freezes or cuts most programs below their FY 2005 levels, including the following:

International assistance grants to eradicate child labor and protect worker rights through

the Bureau of International Labor Affairs are cut by 21.4 percent.

Community college training grants are cut by 50 percent in each of FY 2005 and FY 2006.

Unemployment insurance and employment service offices to help the unemployed are cut by 6.7 percent.

Health professions training grants are cut by 69 percent.

The Healthy Communities Access Program is eliminated.

The Centers for Disease Control is cut by 3.9 percent.

Comprehensive school reform state grants are eliminated.

Even Start family literacy services are cut by 55.6 percent.

Education technology grants are cut by 44.6 percent.

The education block grant for local initiatives is cut by 49.6 percent.

Safe and drug free schools grants are cut by 20 percent.

Under the conference agreement, only a few programs receive modest increases over FY 2005 and—in most cases—even these increases are below the amounts sought by the administration. While the conference agreement restores many of the 50 programs proposed for termination in the House bill, these restorations were made at the expense of funding for priority programs, such as community health services, Title 1 grants for low-income children, and special education grants, and Pell grants.

NIH receives a mere 0.7 percent increase—this does not even keep pace with inflation and does not meet our health research needs.

Title 1 grants for low-income children receive a 0.8 percent increase—the smallest increase in 8 years.

Special education grants receive a 0.9 percent increase—the smallest increase in a decade.

The maximum Pell grant is frozen at \$4,050 for the fourth consecutive year compared to the \$4,100 provided in the House bill.

Mr. Speaker, the simple truth is that the bill cuts essential health and education programs to pay for ill-conceived tax cuts. I do not believe this bill reflects the priorities and values of the American people. I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to talk about the misguided conference report that the majority party has produced.

While the number of people living in poverty in this country continues to rise, this conference report fails to adequately fund programs that work to alleviate poverty. Despite the evidence, this conference report cuts Head Start funding and freezes funding for programs such as the Community Service Block Grant and LIHEAP.

As the number of Americans without health insurance sets new records every day, this conference report is cutting funding to programs that provide healthcare assistance to the uninsured. It eliminates the Healthy Communities Access Program and imposes drastic cuts to Maternal and Child Health funding and Rural Health Outreach. These cuts are in addition to \$11 billion in cuts to Medicaid that are included in the majority party's reconciliation bill that may be voted on later today.

As the number of Americans unable to find a job continues to rise this conference report

issues devastating cuts to initiatives that help put dislocated workers back in the labor force. Currently, 7.4 million Americans are unemployed, yet this conference report cuts Unemployment Insurance and Employment Services by \$141 million.

At a time when this country should be investing in education and human capital, this conference agreement cuts \$784 million from No Child Left Behind. It cuts funding for Even Start and Safe and Drug Free Schools, and freezes funding for adult education. These cuts are in addition to a reconciliation bill that cuts \$14.3 billion from student aid for college students.

Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress to find solutions to problems not make them worse. We have a responsibility to ensure that all Americans have an opportunity to share in America's prosperity. It is irresponsible that we approve this conference report that cuts and eliminates essential programs when there is such an obvious need for the services they provide. I cannot in good conscience vote for this conference report and I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the fiscal year 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations is not just an underfunded bill but is harmful. A bill which should be a stepping stone towards providing good education, employment opportunities and access to affordable health care, instead takes away important safeguards upon which Oregonians and Americans depend. It is another example of how out of touch the Republican leadership is with the rest of the Nation.

This bill shortchanges education programs and imposes a burden on our college students. At a time when the global economy demands a highly trained, educated workforce, we are making it more difficult for our students to succeed by cutting financial aid programs, impacting over 90,000 Oregonians who are borrowing money to attend college. Oregonians have already been saddled with at least a \$1,000 increase in college tuition over the last year. And while there are over 55 million children in public schools nationwide and State budgets are already stretched thin, No Child Left Behind funding is cut by \$784 million.

Students are not the only ones feeling the squeeze. Several health care programs are threatened or eliminated in the legislation. While over 600,000 Oregonians are without health insurance, this bill essentially eliminates many of the safety net clinics and community health centers on which uninsured people depend. We may end up seeing more people in emergency rooms with severe conditions that could have been prevented with regular access to health care.

With over 7 million Americans out of work and over 100,000 Oregonians unemployed, the bill cuts the Department of Labor by \$430 million. Without assistance the gap between the wealthy and the less fortunate will continue to widen. Americans deserve better and it is irresponsible to say that these eliminated programs and funding cuts are the only way to solve our budgetary mess.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the conference report of H.R. 3010, the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill

for Fiscal Year 2006. This bill and the Republican majority are out of touch with the needs of the American public.

This legislation is a question of priorities. It is unconscionable that the Republican majority prepares to fund \$70 billion in tax cuts with cuts to key education, job training and health care programs. With States across the country struggling to find the dollars to fully implement No Child Left Behind, this bill would cut No Child Left Behind funding by \$784 million. With college tuition costs rising, this bill would freeze Pell grant funding at last year's level. With energy costs rising, this bill would also freeze Low-Income Home Energy Assistance funding at last year's level. With 7.4 million Americans out of work, this bill would cut \$245 million for unemployment insurance and employment services programs.

Additionally, this bill would provide the National Institute of Health, NIH, which works to research and combat diseases like cancer and chronic illnesses such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and ALS, with the smallest funding level increase in 36 years. This bill would also slash \$31 million in funding for Preventive Health Block Grants and provides virtually no funding for new Community Health Centers. This bill fails to recognize the continued HIV/AIDS crisis by freezing funding on virtually all components of the Ryan White AIDS Care program, except AIDS Drug Assistance. In total, this bill ignores the health needs of Americans.

This bill does not reflect the priorities of the American people. As Members of Congress, we cannot abandon our obligations to our children, to our parents and future generations by cutting vital programs to finance tax cuts bigger than we can afford. I urge my colleagues to reject the underlying bill and do better for the American people.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the vast education cuts brought before us today in this conference agreement and additionally in the budget reconciliation package that we may see today, are telling signs of the priorities of this Congress. These cuts demonstrate, far better than words ever could, that education is not a priority for this House.

This conference agreement provides a mere \$11 million increase for Head Start, a pivotal program for preschool-aged children in low-income families across the Nation. At current funding levels, Head Start serves approximately half of the children eligible for its services, a wholly inadequate proportion. This program, which has repeatedly been found to dramatically improve the academic performance of students deserves much more than an \$11 million increase.

The conference agreement cuts school improvement funding by 6 percent and flat funds teacher quality grants. These grants, which are used to recruit qualified teachers and support teacher development, are critically important to efforts to improve student achievement.

Rather than strengthening the Pell Grant Program and increasing access to higher education for low-income students, the conference agreement maintains the current maximum Pell Grant of \$4,050. At this level, the maximum Pell Grant only covers 39 percent of tuition at the average four-year public college, making a mockery of its status as the foundation of student aid for the poorest students.

What are our priorities? The votes members cast today on this conference agreement and the budget reconciliation later today, will show

their priorities. Do we place more value on tax cuts for the wealthy or the education of our students? I urge my colleagues to join me in prioritizing students' well-being and vote no on this conference report and on the budget reconciliation package.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to oppose the Labor-HHS-Education conference report, which is the most recent evidence that working and middle class Americans are paying the price for the Republican economic agenda of tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. Not only does this immoral budget fail to provide for what the American people need now, it also fails to address what it will take to be economically competitive in the future.

Overall, the conference report cuts education, health care, and human services by \$1.5 billion from what was spent on these efforts last year. Meanwhile, Republicans will spend \$11 billion this week on a capital gains and dividend income tax cut that will provide 53 percent of its benefit to people making more than \$1 million per year. Their plan spends more on tax cuts this week alone (\$70 billion) than on both the Department of Education and the Department of Labor (\$68 billion) for an entire year.

Funding for education is also cut by \$784 million, the first time the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act will have been cut since the law was enacted. Title I, which is the core of NCLB's efforts to improve reading and math skills, receives the smallest increase in eight years. Because it fails to keep pace with our growing population, 3.1 million low-income children will be left behind.

A program for which I have consistently advocated is Mathematics & Science Partnerships. Under this program, grants are first made to states, which, in turn, make grants to partnerships that must include a state agency; an engineering, math or science department of a college or university; and a high-need school district. Grantees use these funds to establish rigorous math and science programs; recruit math, science and engineering majors into teaching; and improve the teaching skills of math and science teachers. Without significant investment in math and science education, we will not be competitive with countries like China who are graduating nine times the number of engineering students that we are producing in America. Unfortunately, this conference report appropriates \$6 million less than the House passed earlier this year and \$85 million (32 percent) less than the President's request.

Also important for long term economic competitiveness is the Educational Technology State Grants Program. Like math and science partnerships this program received \$25 million less than the House bill, \$150 million (35 percent) less than the Senate bill, and \$221 million (45 percent) less than the current appropriation. This is exactly the wrong direction to be taking the country. We can not stay globally competitive if we are not teaching our children the skills and knowledge they will need to be the innovators of tomorrow.

Education for the disabled is also slashed. This bill cuts the Federal share of special education costs from 18.6 percent in FY 2005 to 18.0 percent by providing the smallest increase for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in a decade. The bill provides \$4 billion less than Republicans promised for IDEA.

Similarly, the bill cuts \$17 million for vocational education. This cut will force local school boards to raise funds or cut other services to make up the shortfall. This will not prepare our children with the high tech vocational education they will need to obtain a job that pays well but for which a college degree is not necessary.

With 7.4 million Americans out of work it is unclear to me why Republicans are cutting the Community College Initiative. This initiative would train workers for high skill, high paying jobs, yet it is being reduced by \$125 million, denying this assistance to 100,000 Americans of a continued education to help them get a new job. This bill also cuts job search assistance through the Employment Service by \$89 million (11 percent) and unemployment insurance by \$245 million (7 percent), eliminating help for 1.9 million people.

This bill is no better for those attending college full-time. Despite the fact that higher education is increasingly expensive, the majority has decided not to increase the maximum Pell grant. Rather it is being frozen for the fourth straight year, and no new funding is provided for any other student financial aid and support programs, even though college costs have increased by \$3,095 (34 percent) since 2001.

College students are not the only ones left out in the cold by this bill. Families and seniors who cannot afford to pay the expected 46 percent increase for natural gas and 28 percent for home heating oil this winter will have to get by without energy assistance from the federal government. For some reason Republicans have refused to increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which helps keep the heat on for people who cannot otherwise heat their homes in winter.

As this bill hurts families' ability to pay for college and heat their homes, it also deals a blow to their ability to receive healthcare. Nearly 46 million Americans are without health insurance, yet Republicans provide virtually no funding for new Community Health Centers beyond the amount approved last year. They also eliminate the Healthy Communities Access Program altogether along with the state planning grants to improve health care coverage. Where do the Republicans find the moral justification to cut these programs while planning to pass another \$70 billion tax cut for the top 1%?

The bill does little to prepare for long-term healthcare concerns or invest in medical research. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is cut \$249 million (3.9 percent). The National Institutes of Health (NIH) receives a (0.7 percent) increase—its smallest increase in 36 years, and not enough to keep the number of research grants from declining for the second year in a row. How are we supposed to remain the world leader in health research with funding numbers like this?

I believe American leadership is fueled by national investments in an educated and skilled workforce, groundbreaking federal research, and a steadfast commitment to being the most competitive and innovative Nation in the world. We must make the decision now to ensure that America remains the world leader in innovation and competitiveness. This bill takes us in the opposite direction.

America's global leadership in technological advancement and innovation is being seriously challenged by other countries. The warning

signs could not be clearer. The rest of the world is increasing its capacity, its investments, and its will to catch up with us. We cannot ignore this challenge. Americans again must innovate in order to create new thriving industries that will produce millions of good jobs here at home and a better future for our children. Today this bill moves us further away from achieving this goal.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today we have some very clear choices. It is not every day that we face such black and white options—often the issues we debate on this floor have many shades of gray.

But today, there is no confusion, there is no muddying of the issues, and there is no way to mask the harm this bill would do: cut education spending for the first time in a decade, slash funding for worker and youth training, and provide no increase for home heating assistance for low-income families.

Today, we have a choice. We can pass a bill that will be detrimental to our children's future; that will hurt students in need of financial assistance to go to college; that will not help families struggling to pay their heating bills; and that will severely hinder research and preventive health efforts. Or we can reject this bill and demand something better for American families.

We have heard that this bill is the result of priorities. Well, this is one point where I agree with my Republican colleagues. This bill is the result of priorities. The wrong priorities, Mr. Speaker.

When the Republican leadership of this Congress is content to spend more on tax cuts than on the entire Department of Education or Labor;

When we can spend \$70 billion in tax cuts but cannot provide children the access to technology or advanced science and math instruction they need to compete in today's world;

When we can give millionaires a break but cannot provide students even a meager increase in Pell Grants to help them pay for the rising cost of college;

When we can shell out billions in tax breaks to oil companies but cannot help those in need prepare for what is expected to be one of the costliest winters yet; it is clear that Republicans have the wrong priorities in mind.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's children should not have their education shortchanged because the administration had to scrounge around for a few million here and there to pay for tax cuts that benefit a small minority in this country.

At a time when people are losing faith in their government and their leaders, when they are asking for honesty and looking for answers to their everyday needs, this bill provides no answers. This bill tells them to go it alone. Mr. Speaker, America deserves better than this.

Vote no on this conference report that shortchanges and unfairly punishes everyday Americans.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Labor, Health & Human Services and Education Appropriations bill before us. This bill quite simply fails to address the priorities of the American people.

My concerns about specific cuts in this bill are many. It cuts funding for No Child Left Behind, an already vastly underfunded mandate; it fails to offer even the small increase in the

maximum Pell Grant that was established in the House bill; and it sets a funding level for the National Institutes of Health that would decrease the number of federal research grants for the second year in a row. The consequences of this bill are far-reaching. Major cutbacks in the areas of education and health care will have a tremendous economic impact on our Nation.

I would like to speak briefly about what my constituents have told me is important to them. Rhode Islanders, like all Americans, are concerned about health care. I have heard from many of them in recent weeks, in opposition to the devastating cuts to the Title VII health professions programs. While the Administration has made it clear that Community Health Centers are a priority to them, this bill nearly eliminates the very programs that health centers rely on to recruit nurses to work in areas that are facing acute professional shortages and train medical students to work with underserved populations. With 45 million uninsured Americans, we cannot afford to eliminate programs targeted at meeting the needs of the uninsured or remove the support systems that exist for those doctors and nurses who are serving in areas where there is a shortage of professional health services.

Rhode Islanders are also concerned about unemployment. With 7.4 million unemployed Americans, this conference agreement cuts critical services for the unemployed, including job training grants and unemployment insurance offices. Adult Training Grants, which provide training and related education and employment services to economically disadvantaged adults, are cut by \$31 million—providing the lowest level of funding for these training grants in a decade. Youth training grants, which offer states the opportunity to develop on-the-job training and provide exposure to a wide variety of promising career paths for disadvantaged youth are cut by \$36 million, offering 12,000 less at-risk youth the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and find meaningful employment.

When Congress passed H. Con. Res. 95, the Budget Conference Report, the Republican leadership set the stage for these devastating cuts. This legislation makes it clear that tax cuts for the wealthy will continue to be paid for by slashing programs that Rhode Islanders depend on.

I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 3010.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3010, the Fiscal Year 2006 Appropriations Act for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. H.R. 3010 severely cuts education, health care, and human services that are crucial to North Carolina and to the country.

As the only former state schools chief serving in Congress, I know firsthand the devastating effects that these education cuts will have. At a time when we are asking our schools to do more than ever, H.R. 3010 cuts No Child Left Behind funding by \$784 million below last year's level and makes it impossible for our schools to meet high standards of accountability. These cuts will destroy the morale of our teachers, parents and students.

America's working families are struggling to pay record costs for college costs for college tuition and expenses. Last November, President Bush made a campaign promise to increase funding for Pell Grants and invest in higher education. Unfortunately, this bill

freezes Pell Grants and other student financial aid programs for the fourth year in a row, even though college costs have increased by 34 percent since 2001. America needs a highly trained and educated workforce to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st Century, but H.R. 3010 slashes funding for education at all levels and strains school budgets.

The failure of H.R. 3010 to represent the values of the American people extends beyond the walls of the classroom. H.R. 3010 slashes funding for community health centers that assist the almost 46 million uninsured Americans, and underfunds the Centers for Disease Control as we face the possibility of a flu pandemic. And as winter approaches with expected record prices to heat their homes, H.R. 3010 fails to increase funding for LIHEAP home heating assistance, which helps keep the heat on for low-income seniors and children.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3010 fails to represent the priorities of the American people. I urge my colleagues to vote against this bad bill and restore funding for essential services for our families.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Conference Report on H.R. 3010. The fiscal year 2006 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations report before the House today shortchanges America's children, its families, its workers and its most vulnerable citizens.

The Labor-HHS-Education bill embodies our priorities and values as Americans. In it, Congress provides the yearly resources needed to keep our families healthy, our children educated, our workers employed, and our most vulnerable citizens a productive part of our society. This bill is arguably one of the most important pieces of legislation Congress addresses each year.

Chairman REGULA understands this responsibility. He understands that this is "the people's bill", and he has worked hard to distribute the limited resources he was given in a fair and conscientious way. So my "no" vote today should in no way be seen as a lack of respect or appreciation for the efforts of RALPH REGULA, the chairman of the Labor HHS Appropriations Subcommittee.

Chairman REGULA and the staff of the subcommittee have worked within this tight budget allocation to address the needs and priorities of our states and communities as best they could under the circumstances. For example, the conference report includes increases in two critical areas to help infants and their families. The first is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's folic acid national education program. This program has been instrumental in the prevention of birth defects by encouraging women of child-bearing age to take the recommended amount of folic acid daily, thereby decreasing the rate of neural tube defects. The second increase is for the Health Resources and Services Administration's newborn screening program for early identification of infants affected by certain genetic, metabolic, hormonal and or functional conditions for which there are effective treatment or intervention. In addition, for the first time, this bill also includes programmatic funding for the national media campaign to fight underage drinking, which is being conducted by the Ad Council. I thank the committee for helping our country make progress in these critical public health areas. The presence of these and a small number of other

positive programmatic funding levels, however, is simply not enough to warrant approving this conference report.

Mr. Speaker, the constraints placed on this bill by the budget priorities and decisions of the Republican leadership are not worthy of this House and the values of the American people. I voted against the House bill when it came to the floor in June precisely because it fell so short of meeting the needs of America's children, families and the most vulnerable among us. I had hoped that the bill would be improved in the conference. It is unfortunate, however, that in this conference agreement, the way they chose to improve overall programmatic funding from the original House Bill levels was to take resources away from other priorities and community needs.

This report and its funding decisions do not stand in isolation. They reflect the misguided priorities of a Republican leadership that has continually put the interests of the wealthy and the privileged before the needs and priorities of working and middle-class Americans. This Labor-HHS-Education conference report is a direct result of an economic agenda of tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, and it weakens America's future by under-funding key education, health and human services programs. If approved, this bill will impose cuts to essential programs important to Americans in at least three major areas.

First, this conference agreement significantly shortchanges our nation's workers. The bill cuts labor programs \$430 million below the FY 2005 levels. Training and employment services for the 7.4 million Americans who are unemployed are funded well below the FY05 levels. This includes a \$31 million cut to Adult Training Grants, a \$36 million cut to Youth Training Grants; and a \$141 million cut to Unemployment Insurance Offices. The U.S. Employment Service Office, which matches job seekers with job openings, is slashed by 10.5 percent, and the report freezes funding for dislocated and older workers. In addition, the bill slices International Labor Affairs, the program that helps eradicate abusive child labor practices and protect worker rights, by 21 percent.

Secondly, this report is simply a reaffirmation of the Administration's hollow commitment to education, slashing the No Child Left Behind funds by \$784 million below the FY 2005 level. It cuts the Education Technology Block Grant program that provides access to technology in schools by a shocking 45 percent from last year's level. It reduces the Even Start program supporting services for low literate and low-income families by 56 percent. And as a final point, it shortchanges our children with disabilities by funding IDEA at \$4 billion below the Republican promise to put special education on a fast track to full funding.

Finally, the report is particularly devastating to the health of Americans. Some of its most significant cuts are directed towards the critical programs that provide a health care safety net for the uninsured. The conference agreement provides \$34 million less than the House passed bill and \$89 million less than the Senate bill for grants to Health Centers for services to the uninsured. The Maternal and Child Health Block Grant is cut by 3 percent, reducing its true per capita purchasing power by almost 20 percent below the FY 2002 level. The conference agreement terminates the Healthy Communities Access Program that makes grants to local hospitals, health centers and

providers so that they can provide better integrated systems of care for the underinsured and uninsured. Lastly, as if cutting services wasn't enough, the conference agreement virtually decimates the Title VII Health Professions Training programs, cutting overall funding from \$300 million in FY 2005 to \$94 million in FY 2006.

Mr. Speaker, these drastic reductions to critical programs are not necessary. Ranking Member DAVID OBEY has consistently laid out a common-sense approach to this problem. By simply reducing the tax break for those with incomes greater than \$1 million, we could add funding for No Child Left Behind programs, maintain college affordability by increasing the money for Pell grants, shore up our health safety net programs, and rebuild our public health system to respond to pandemics and possible terrorist attacks. But these fiscally responsible efforts by Mr. OBEY and the Democrats have been defeated by the Republican majority at every turn. The result is this grossly underfunded bill which we are considering today.

In the end, this Congress will be judged by how well we have served the needs of all our citizens and communities. As a result, this Labor-HHS-Education Bill will not reflect kindly on us. We can and must do better for the future of our families, our children, our workers and our most vulnerable citizens.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on adopting the conference report on H.R. 3010 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of House Joint Resolution 72.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 209, nays 224, not voting 1, as follows:

[Roll No. 598]
YEAS—209

Aderholt	Cantor	Fossella
Akin	Capito	Fox
Alexander	Carter	Franks (AZ)
Bachus	Chabot	Frelinghuysen
Baker	Chocola	Gallegly
Barrett (SC)	Coble	Garrett (NJ)
Bartlett (MD)	Cole (OK)	Gilchrest
Barton (TX)	Conaway	Gillmor
Bass	Crenshaw	Gingrey
Beauprez	Cubin	Gohmert
Biggart	Culberson	Goode
Bilirakis	Cunningham	Goodlatte
Bishop (UT)	Davis (KY)	Granger
Blackburn	Davis, Jo Ann	Graves
Blunt	Davis, Tom	Green (WI)
Boehlert	Deal (GA)	Gutknecht
Boehner	DeLay	Hall
Bonilla	Dent	Harris
Bonner	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hart
Bono	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hastert
Boozman	Doolittle	Hastings (WA)
Boustany	Drake	Hayes
Bradley (NH)	Dreier	Hayworth
Brady (TX)	Duncan	Hefley
Brown (SC)	Ehlers	Hensarling
Brown-Waite,	English (PA)	Herger
Ginny	Everett	Hobson
Burgess	Feeney	Hoekstra
Burton (IN)	Ferguson	Hostettler
Buyer	Flake	Hulshof
Calvert	Foley	Hunter
Camp	Forbes	Hyde
Cannon	Fortenberry	Inglis (SC)

Issa	Miller (FL)	Sensenbrenner
Istook	Miller (MI)	Sessions
Jenkins	Miller, Gary	Shadegg
Jindal	Musgrave	Shaw
Johnson (IL)	Myrick	Shays
Johnson, Sam	Neugebauer	Sherwood
Jones (NC)	Ney	Shimkus
Keller	Northup	Shuster
Kelly	Norwood	Simpson
Knollenberg	Nussle	Smith (NJ)
Kolbe	Osborne	Smith (TX)
Kuhl (NY)	Oxley	Sodrel
LaHood	Pearce	Souder
Latham	Pence	Sullivan
LaTourette	Peterson (PA)	Sweeney
Lewis (CA)	Petri	Tancredo
Lewis (KY)	Pitts	Taylor (NC)
Linder	Poe	Terry
LoBiondo	Pombo	Thornberry
Lucas	Porter	Tiahrt
Lungren, Daniel	Price (GA)	Tiberi
E.	Pryce (OH)	Tiberti
Mack	Putnam	Turner
Manzullo	Radanovich	Upton
Marchant	Regula	Walden (OR)
McCaul (TX)	Rehberg	Walsh
McCotter	Reichert	Wamp
McCrery	Reynolds	Weldon (FL)
McHenry	Rogers (KY)	Weldon (PA)
McHugh	Rogers (MI)	Weller
McKeon	Rohrabacher	Westmoreland
McMorris	Ros-Lehtinen	Whitfield
Mica	Royce	Wicker
	Ryan (WI)	Wilson (SC)
	Ryun (KS)	Wolf
	Saxton	Young (AK)
	Schmidt	Young (FL)
	Schwarz (MI)	

NAYS—224

Abercrombie	Engel	Markey
Ackerman	Eshoo	Marshall
Allen	Etheridge	Matheson
Andrews	Evans	Matsui
Baca	Farr	McCarthy
Baird	Fattah	McCollum (MN)
Baldwin	Filner	McDermott
Barrow	Fitzpatrick (PA)	McGovern
Bean	Ford	McIntyre
Becerra	Frank (MA)	McKinney
Berkley	Gerlach	McNulty
Berman	Gibbons	Meehan
Berry	Gonzalez	Meek (FL)
Bishop (GA)	Gordon	Meeks (NY)
Bishop (NY)	Green, Al	Melancon
Blumenauer	Green, Gene	Menendez
Boren	Grijalva	Michaud
Boucher	Gutierrez	Millender-
Boyd	Harman	McDonald
Brady (PA)	Hastings (FL)	Miller (NC)
Brown (OH)	Herseth	Miller, George
Brown, Corrine	Higgins	Mollohan
Butterfield	Hinchee	Moore (KS)
Capps	Hinojosa	Moore (WI)
Capuano	Holden	Moran (KS)
Cardin	Holt	Moran (VA)
Cardoza	Honda	Murphy
Carnahan	Hooley	Murtha
Carson	Hoyer	Nadler
Case	Inslee	Napolitano
Castle	Israel	Neal (MA)
Chandler	Jackson (IL)	Nunes
Clay	Jackson-Lee	Obestar
Cleaver	(TX)	Obey
Clyburn	Jefferson	Olver
Conyers	Johnson (CT)	Ortiz
Cooper	Johnson, E. B.	Otter
Costa	Jones (OH)	Owens
Costello	Kanjorski	Pallone
Cramer	Kaptur	Pascarell
Crowley	Kennedy (RI)	Pastor
Cuellar	Kildee	Paul
Cummings	Kilpatrick (MI)	Payne
Davis (AL)	Kind	Pelosi
Davis (CA)	Kirk	Peterson (MN)
Davis (FL)	Kucinich	Pickering
Davis (IL)	Langevin	Platts
Davis (TN)	Lantos	Pomeroy
DeFazio	Larsen (WA)	Price (NC)
DeGette	Larson (CT)	Rahall
Delahunt	Leach	Ramstad
DeLauro	Lee	Rangel
Dicks	Levin	Renzi
Dingell	Lewis (GA)	Reyes
Doggett	Lipinski	Rogers (AL)
Doyle	Lofgren, Zoe	Ross
Edwards	Lowey	Rothman
Emanuel	Lynch	Royal-Allard
Emerson	Maloney	Ruppersberger

Rush	Slaughter	Udall (CO)
Ryan (OH)	Smith (WA)	Udall (NM)
Sabo	Snyder	Van Hollen
Salazar	Solis	Velázquez
Sánchez, Linda T.	Spratt	Visclosky
	Stark	Wasserman
Sanchez, Loretta	Stearns	Schultz
Sanders	Strickland	Waters
Schakowsky	Stupak	Watson
Schiff	Tanner	Watt
Schwartz (PA)	Tauscher	Waxman
Scott (GA)	Taylor (MS)	Weiner
Scott (VA)	Thomas	Wexler
Serrano	Thompson (CA)	Wilson (NM)
Sherman	Thompson (MS)	Woolsey
Simmons	Tierney	Wu
Skelton	Towns	Wynn

NOT VOTING—1

Boswell

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. PELOSI (during the vote). Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry. Has it now been 30 minutes for a 15-minute vote?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Clause 2(a) of rule XX establishes 15 minutes as a minimum time. The rule does not state a maximum amount of time.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, how much longer will it take for the Republican leadership to pass this terrible attack on America's children?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman does not state a parliamentary inquiry.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, how much longer will you hold this vote open?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair intends to bring the vote to a close at such time as he believes that Members have finished voting.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, how many Members have not yet voted?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has affirmed that the rules establish a minimum duration of the vote. The rules do not set a maximum duration. The Chair intends to bring the vote to a close at such time as he believes that Members have finished voting.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, is the vote being held open to change votes or are there Members who have not voted?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will leave the vote open until he believes Members have finished voting.

Ms. PELOSI. I hope we will not be waiting too much longer, Mr. Speaker.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. PELOSI (during the vote). Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, is it not a part of the rules of the House for Members who wish to change their votes for them to come to the well to change their votes and not keep the machines open to do that?

Mr. Speaker, is it not further part of the usual procedure of the House for the Chair to announce the changes as they come in?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk has announced changes. The voting stations cannot accept further changes at this point. Any further changes must be made in the well.

□ 1413

Messrs. RUSH, HONDA and GUTIERREZ changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, HEFLEY, GINGREY, TANCREDO, FRANKS of Arizona, FLAKE, YOUNG of Alaska, JONES of North Carolina and Ms. HART, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, and Mrs. CUBIN changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the conference report was not agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1415

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The pending business is the vote on passage of House Joint Resolution 72 on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 16, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 599]

YEAS—413

Abercrombie	Camp	Ehlers
Ackerman	Cannon	Emanuel
Aderholt	Cantor	Emerson
Akin	Capito	Engel
Alexander	Capps	English (PA)
Allen	Cardin	Eshoo
Andrews	Cardoza	Etheridge
Baca	Carson	Evans
Bachus	Carter	Everett
Baird	Case	Farr
Baker	Castle	Fattah
Baldwin	Chabot	Feeney
Barrett (SC)	Chandler	Ferguson
Barrow	Chocola	Filner
Bartlett (MD)	Clay	Fitzpatrick (PA)
Barton (TX)	Cleaver	Flake
Bass	Clyburn	Foley
Bean	Coble	Forbes
Beauprez	Cole (OK)	Fortenberry
Berkley	Conaway	Fossella
Berman	Costa	Foxx
Berry	Costello	Franks (AZ)
Biggart	Cramer	Frelinghuysen
Bilirakis	Crenshaw	Galleghy
Bishop (GA)	Crowley	Garrett (NJ)
Bishop (NY)	Cubin	Gerlach
Bishop (UT)	Cuellar	Gibbons
Blackburn	Culberson	Gilchrest
Blumenauer	Cummings	Gillmor
Blunt	Cunningham	Gingrey
Boehlert	Davis (AL)	Gohmert
Boehner	Davis (CA)	Gonzalez
Bonilla	Davis (FL)	Goode
Bonner	Davis (IL)	Goodlatte
Bono	Davis (KY)	Gordon
Boozman	Davis (TN)	Granger
Boren	Davis, Jo Ann	Graves
Boucher	Davis, Tom	Green (WI)
Boustany	Deal (GA)	Green, Al
Boyd	DeGette	Green, Gene
Bradley (NH)	Delahunt	Gutierrez
Brady (PA)	DeLauro	Gutknecht
Brady (TX)	DeLay	Hall
Brown (OH)	Dent	Harman
Brown (SC)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Harris
Brown, Corrine	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hart
Brown-Waite,	Dicks	Hastings (WA)
Ginny	Doggett	Hayes
Burgess	Doolittle	Hayworth
Burton (IN)	Doyle	Hefley
Butterfield	Drake	Hensarling
Buyer	Dreier	Herger
Calvert	Duncan	Hersteth

Higgins	McKinney	Ryan (WI)
Hinchev	McMorris	Ryan (KS)
Hinojosa	McNulty	Sabo
Hobson	Meehan	Salazar
Hoekstra	Meek (FL)	Sánchez, Linda T.
Holden	Meeks (NY)	
Holt	Melancon	Sanchez, Loretta
Honda	Menendez	Sanders
Hooley	Mica	Saxton
Hostettler	Michaud	Schakowsky
Hoyer	Millender-	Schiff
Hulshof	McDonald	Schmidt
Hunter	Miller (FL)	Schwartz (PA)
Hyde	Miller (MI)	Schwarz (MI)
Inglis (SC)	Miller (NC)	Scott (GA)
Inslee	Miller, Gary	Scott (VA)
Israel	Miller, George	Sensenbrenner
Issa	Mollohan	Serrano
Istook	Moore (KS)	Sessions
Jackson-Lee	Moore (WI)	Shadegg
(TX)	Moran (KS)	Shaw
Jefferson	Moran (VA)	Shays
Jenkins	Murphy	Sherman
Jindal	Murtha	Sherwood
Johnson (CT)	Musgrave	Shimkus
Johnson (IL)	Myrick	Shuster
Johnson, E. B.	Nadler	Simmons
Johnson, Sam	Napolitano	Simpson
Jones (NC)	Neal (MA)	Skelton
Jones (OH)	Neugebauer	Slaughter
Kanjorski	Ney	Smith (NJ)
Kaptur	Northup	Smith (TX)
Keller	Norwood	Smith (WA)
Kelly	Nunes	Snyder
Kennedy (MN)	Nussle	Sodrel
Kennedy (RI)	Oberstar	Solis
Kildee	Obey	Souder
Kilpatrick (MI)	Olver	Spratt
Kind	Ortiz	Stark
King (IA)	Osborne	Stearns
King (NY)	Otter	Strickland
Kingston	Owens	Sullivan
Kirk	Oxley	Sweeney
Kline	Pallone	Tancredo
Knollenberg	Pascrell	Tanner
Kolbe	Pastor	Tauscher
Kuhl (NY)	Paul	Taylor (MS)
LaHood	Payne	Taylor (NC)
Langevin	Pearce	Terry
Lantos	Pelosi	Thomas
Larsen (WA)	Pence	Thompson (CA)
Larson (CT)	Peterson (MN)	Thompson (MS)
Latham	Peterson (PA)	Thornberry
LaTourette	Petri	Tiahrt
Leach	Pickering	Tiberi
Lee	Pitts	Turner
Levin	Platts	Udall (CO)
Lewis (CA)	Poe	Udall (NM)
Lewis (GA)	Pombo	Upton
Lewis (KY)	Pomeroy	Van Hollen
Linder	Porter	Velázquez
Lipinski	Price (GA)	Visclosky
LoBiondo	Price (NC)	Walden (OR)
Lowe	Pryce (OH)	Walsh
Lucas	Putnam	Wamp
Lungren, Daniel E.	Radanovich	Wasserman
	Rahall	Schultz
Lynch	Ramstad	Waters
Mack	Rangel	Watson
Maloney	Regula	Watt
Manzullo	Rehberg	Waxman
Marchant	Reichert	Weiner
Markey	Renzi	Weldon (FL)
Marshall	Reyes	Weldon (PA)
Matheson	Reynolds	Weller
Matsui	Rogers (AL)	Westmoreland
McCarthy	Rogers (KY)	Wexler
McCaul (TX)	Rogers (MI)	Whitfield
McCullum (MN)	Rohrabacher	Wicker
McCotter	Ros-Lehtinen	Wilson (NM)
McCrery	Ross	Wilson (SC)
McDermott	Rothman	Wolf
McGovern	Roybal-Allard	Woolsey
McHenry	Royce	Wynn
McHugh	Ruppersberger	Young (AK)
McIntyre	Rush	Young (FL)
McKeon	Ryan (OH)	

NAYS—16

Becerra	Ford	Lofgren, Zoe
Capuano	Frank (MA)	Stupak
Conyers	Grijalva	Tierney
Cooper	Hastings (FL)	Wu
DeFazio	Jackson (IL)	
Dingell	Kucinich	

NOT VOTING—4

Boswell	Edwards
Carnahan	Towns

□ 1428

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOTION TO INSIST ON DISAGREEMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3010, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I move to take from the Speaker's table the bill, H.R. 3010, with the Senate amendment and to insist on disagreement to the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, this is a simple motion to insist on the House position, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1218

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) at 8 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4241, DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 560 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. RES. 560

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4241) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006. The bill shall be considered as read. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accom-

panying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration of H.R. 4241 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to a time designated by the Speaker.

SEC. 3. After passage of H.R. 4241, it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table S. 1932 and to consider the Senate bill in the House. All points of order against the Senate bill and against its consideration are waived. It shall be in order to move to strike all after the enacting clause of the Senate bill and to insert in lieu thereof the provisions of H.R. 4241 as passed by the House. All points of order against that motion are waived.

UNFUNDED MANDATE POINT OF ORDER

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 426 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, I make a point of order against the consideration of this rule, H. Res. 560.

Section 425 of that same act states that the point of order lies against legislation which imposes an unfunded mandate in excess of specified amounts against State or local governments.

Section 426 of the Budget Act specifically states that the Rules Committee may not waive this point of order.

The first section of H. Res. 560 proposes to waive all points of order against consideration of the bill and against provisions in the bill, as amended.

The legislation, H.R. 4241, brought up by the rule, includes provisions on child support enforcement, which the Congressional Budget Office informs us impose an intergovernmental mandate as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

Therefore, I make a point of order that this rule may not be considered pursuant to section 426.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington makes a point of order that the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

In accordance with section 426(b)(2) of that Act, the gentleman has met the threshold burden to identify the specific language in the resolution on which the point of order is predicated.

Under section 426(b)(4) of the Act, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) each will control 10 minutes of debate on the question of consideration.

Pursuant to section 426(b)(3) of the Act, after the debate, the Chair will put the question of consideration, to wit: Will the House now consider the resolution?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, Americans on the front line in protecting and defending our

most vulnerable children have been sending out an SOS. They do not merely solve problems every day. They save lives.

Their message is loud and clear. The child support provisions included in reconciliation undermine the Federal commitment to child support enforcement. Republican reconciliation is reckless disregard for safeguarding children.

It is a license for people to break their promise of child support because enforcement will be lax. Eighty percent of the children receiving support live in low- and moderate-income families. The bill would reduce the share of child support enforcement costs that are paid by the Federal Government from 66 percent to 50 percent by 2010. Federal funding to the program would be cut by \$5 billion over the next 5 years, a nearly 40 percent cut in funding for the program by 2010. We make the money go away, but not the problems or the needs.

The CBO estimated that child support provisions in the reconciliation bill would reduce collections sent to families by \$21 billion over the next 10 years.

As a result, more deadbeat dads will be left off the hook, while more low-income families will look to State and Federal programs to make up the difference in lost income. But we will not be there, just like the deadbeat dads.

In 2004, more than \$4 was collected for every dollar spent in the program. Even President Bush's 2006 budget cites the program as "effective" and "one of the highest rated block formula grants of all reviewed programs government-wide."

A hard-working program will fall on hard times if we leave the reconciliation bill as it is. People will be hurt. Children will be hurt. Republicans will be responsible. And for what?

Mr. Speaker, this is the season of giving, and Republicans are going to be very generous with those very few Americans rolling in dough.

Republican leaders have scheduled their midnight express to roll through town again tonight. Republicans will climb aboard to run over the American people in the dead of the night.

Child Support Enforcement, that is not even in the baggage car. Republicans like doing things in the dark, behind closed doors, in the dead of night, hoping the American people will not notice.

Well, not today. Today's light shines on their darkness. If one candle can curse the darkness, we are going to use a search light. It is the Republican season of giving, and here is what it means: we take from the sack of the poor children in this country 330,000 child-care dollars and put it in the rich sock. It is Christmas time. Take \$700 million from Social Security and put it in the rich stocking. Take child support, \$21 billion from Child Support Enforcement and put it in the rich stocking.

Take Medicaid from the poor, \$10 billion, and put it in the rich stocking. Student loans, \$14 million. I take \$14 billion from student loans and give that to the rich stocking. And food stamps from 300,000 tables we take and put it in the rich stocking. Finally, foster children, \$600 million from foster children in this country goes into the sock, later tomorrow, of the rich because we have taken it from the poor and we have given it to the rich.

That is what this bill before us is all about. Tonight in the dead of night you are going to give to the rich who do not need it and take from the needy who cannot afford to lose it. You will disguise this as a Christmas stocking with presents, just in time for the holidays. But it is a heavy-handed club used on the American people. The heartland is not heartless. Not even the dead of the night will hide what you intend to do to the American people tonight. Even the rich will be ashamed. I wonder if the Republicans will. They should be.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman's clever props, notwithstanding the holiday stockings, I would point out to the gentleman who repeatedly referred to this being done in the dead of night that in his home district it is 5:30 in the afternoon and people are driving home from work. So for the dead of night on the west coast, the people on the east coast will know that we are not working a nine to five job and that we are pushing ahead with the agenda of reforming the inefficiencies that lay in government.

I would also point out to the gentleman that between 1999 and 2003, total child support enforcement administrative expenditures went up almost 30 percent; 29 percent between 1999 and 2003, as the case load declined 8 percent. Again, their rhetoric does not match well with the facts.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is utilizing the rules that are at his disposal, and I think that it is appropriate that he do that. It is a positive reflection on this House that these types of tools are available to the minority to stymie the progress, and we appreciate the gentleman's ability to use those. But it would be important to have the facts be accurate, and the facts are that these administrative costs that are being discussed in this bill are a shift in what has been a double-dipping practice that has been used by States to draw down Federal dollars and then collect administrative costs as if the original Federal dollar had been generated in that State in the first place. This is not, as the gentleman has characterized, the Grinch or any other mean-spirited person taking treats from children or from their holiday stockings that have arrived a month and a half early.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. PUTNAM, I will read you the facts from the Congressional Budget Office estimate, that this action will result in a reduction over the next 10 years of \$24 billion in child support. That is the Congressional Budget estimate, and that takes into account adjustments the States might make in providing more money for administration. This is the most callous, callous reflection of your fiscal irresponsibility. You have driven yourselves and this country into so much debt, now you are reaching into the homes of this country. This is antifamily. This is antikids. There is no defense of it.

□ 2030

This money is for administrative purposes. We have been paying two-thirds. The result of it, and it was part of welfare reform, is that child support has gone up and up. The kids have benefited. And now what you are going to do is to reduce those benefits. And we will hear from your side, oh, child support is going to go up, anyway. This is a fact and I close with this. CBO says if anyone votes for this, they are going to reduce child support payments over 10 years by \$24 billion. I say to you, you go home, you face the kids in your district, you face the parents in your district, and you tell them you voted for this. If you won't tell them, we will.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's reference to the CBO numbers. We also have the CBO numbers. They are available on a bipartisan basis. The CBO numbers clearly show that total collections will continue to go up. \$24.8 billion in 2006, \$26 billion in 2010, \$31.7 billion by 2015. The gentleman has referred to this provision as the most callous part of the deficit reduction package. I hope that everyone else on his team remembers that because you can only have one number one. You can only have one most egregious part.

So as we get into the discussions about Medicaid and food stamps and student loans and all the things that we heard about this morning when we were talking about the continuing resolution, let us remember that this one is the most egregious, that this one is the most callous because you can only have one number one. I know that this is nothing but the first salvo in a historic debate about the direction that this country is heading.

I agree with the gentleman that it is important that we go back to our districts and we talk about these plans, because the fact of the matter is we have a plan. And the fact of the matter is that you don't. The fact of the matter is that you can criticize all you want about where we have chosen to reform government, to find efficiencies, to better deliver services to the people who need them the most while you can go home and criticize the changes that we offer without having to defend your own plan.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY).

Mr. POMEROY. This chart says it all. CBO estimates lower spending on child support program leads to lower collections to the tune of \$21 billion. It is truly stunning to me that Republicans in this House would line up together to cut the funds used to collect child support. I just never expected to see them give deadbeat dads a pass, those deadbeat dads who refuse to pay what they owe for the upbringing of their own children.

The majority Members of this body are quick to boast of their support for family values. Well, I ask you this, what kind of family value is it that cuts back on the efforts to make deadbeat dads pay what they owe, when deadbeat dads walk away from their obligations? It won't be you smug in your own comfortable life who will feel the pain. It will be young mothers who can't pay rent. It will be little children whose lives are upended by financial abandonment. For every dollar we spend collecting on child support, we collect more than \$4. In North Dakota, that means for every dollar collected, the Federal Government gets \$2.78 back in recoveries and costs forgone.

State governments also gain, which is precisely why the Congressional Budget Office has found this to be an unfunded mandate. When Republicans cut child support collections, deadbeat dads win. State governments lose. That is why tonight's proposal is an unfunded mandate and must be stopped.

CBO has estimated by cutting collections \$4.9 billion as you do, we lose more than \$24 billion in support not collected. That hits children. That hits families. And that hits States which is what makes this an unfunded mandate. Support the effort to stop this unfunded mandate. Support the effort to block this cut in child support enforcement.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the point of order from the gentleman from Washington. I am here to speak to my colleagues, but especially the 235 of you who, like me, served in legislatures throughout the country prior to coming to Congress. The fiscal sleight of hand that we are undertaking here today is simply that of a financial shell game, and the loser is already clear, it is our States. You don't have to take my word for it.

The Congressional Budget Office has spoken and they have identified that the reduction in child support without a change in the requirements is a violation of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 that many of you were here that supported on a bipartisan basis. It is a violation of the law.

We can play this ridiculous game of pretend and safely ensconce ourselves in these walls but do you truly believe that the actions today will go unnoticed and that State legislatures are not watching what we do? I know that the National Conference of State Legislatures is watching. I hope that ALEC is watching, too, and I suspect that the National Governors Association is taking notes. I can assure you that they are tuning in to C-SPAN and taking careful notice of today's proceedings because besides illegal, today's vote will have a direct impact on their ability to serve the people of their States, the same people who live in our districts.

In fact, President Ronald Reagan's promise of federalism today is nowhere in this Chamber. President Reagan's famous debate line with Mr. Mondale is frighteningly apropos in this exercise: "There you go again." And yes, here we go again attempting to balance our Federal budget on the backs of 50 States.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT).

Mr. TIAHRT. I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding.

We have heard a lot about what devastation from this small little act we are going tonight to try to reform welfare and improve the system of delivering the services and goods to those who are truly in trouble in our culture.

One of the things that is surprising to me, though, is that there is really no plan on the other side. I have seen in the hallways of the office buildings that house Members of Congress offices hold billboards that are put up about the Federal deficit and how we must do something about the Federal deficit, but I have yet to see a plan to try to deal with the deficit that the Democrats themselves are complaining about.

Blue Dog Democrats, each in front of their office, have billboards that says the Federal deficit so much for each family to pay back, we have got to do something about it, but there is no plan. There are more plans on the television show West Wing than the Democrats have here in the United States House of Representatives. There are more plans on the other political shows about how to deal with the problems of today but we get no plans or help from the other side.

So what I think we ought to see here is some Blue Dog Democrats that are the type of dogs that will actually hunt. Dogs that we have some bite instead of the bark, because right now all we hear is a lot of noise and we don't have any action or plan. We are hearing complaining about how we are trying to improve the system.

I will give you one example quickly. In Kansas, delivering Medicaid is only correct three out of four times. One out of four times the payment is inaccurate. We need to reform that system. You would not get on an airplane today

if you had a three out of four chance of getting to your destination. You would not start a trip today if you had only a three out of four chance of getting to your destination. When we make a Medicaid payment in the State of Kansas, our State government is wrong 24 percent of the time. This legislation has reforms in it to help improve our Medicaid system, so those who are truly in need get the services they require.

But we cannot do that according to the other side. We need to pass this legislation, reform the welfare system, and do the right thing about the Federal budget.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I have the responsibility of closure, right?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from Florida has the right to close.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Does he have any other speakers?

Mr. PUTNAM. We do not have any additional speakers, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington has 30 seconds.

Mr. McDERMOTT. He says a whole lot, but he has no one else to speak, Mr. Speaker, because they want the people to believe that this is a fight between Democrats and Republicans. But it is not true. In reality, Republican Governors oppose these child support cuts, including Governor Schwarzenegger of California. Republicans in the Senate oppose these cuts including Senator CORNYN of Texas. Religious organizations oppose these cuts, including the Conference of Catholic Bishops. All program administrators and poverty experts oppose these cuts. Cutting child support payments to needy families is a policy supported only by the extreme right wing which currently is running the House of Representatives. I urge the Members

to vote "no" on this motion.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, this is an important opening to the grand debate that we are unveiling here this evening about the direction of entitlement spending and the direction of Federal spending in this Congress and for our Nation. We have heard an awful lot about the term "cuts" and we have seen the cute props and we have heard the first of what will be many metaphors of snatching food from the mouths of children and all kinds of heated rhetoric. But at the end of the day, the numbers don't lie. The numbers are that child support collections under this proposal continue to go up.

Do they go up as fast as the Democrats would like? Apparently not, judging by the rhetoric. But only in Washington and only in their rhetoric is that a cut. The bottom line is that this next fiscal year, 2006, it is \$23.8 billion. By 2010, it is \$26 billion. And by 2015, it is almost \$32 billion. Under every arithmetic, old math, new math, poor school districts, wealthy school districts, all across America, those numbers are

going up. Those numbers mean more money to those States for the important task of enforcing child support responsibilities by all noncustodial parents.

So despite the references to the smugness, despite the fact that we have been accused of being in the pockets of deadbeat dads, the numbers continue to climb for administrative costs. None of these even affect the actual program. They are defending the administration of the program instead of the outcome of that program, which is more money getting to those families, more fathers, more mothers who are noncustodial living up to their obligations. That is really what it ought to be about, is it not, the outcome? Not the administrative fees, that are going up anyway?

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the fact that the rule has given the gentleman this opportunity for us to open the debate in this way. Unfortunately his rhetoric outpaces the facts. I would urge the Members to reject this proposal and allow us to move forward with reforming government.

With that, I would ask the Members to vote "yes."

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is: Will the House now consider the resolution?

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 198, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 600]

YEAS—224

Aderholt	Calvert	English (PA)
Akin	Camp	Everett
Alexander	Cannon	Feeney
Bachus	Cantor	Ferguson
Baker	Capito	Fitzpatrick (PA)
Barrett (SC)	Carter	Flake
Bartlett (MD)	Castle	Foley
Barton (TX)	Chabot	Forbes
Bass	Chocola	Fossella
Beauprez	Coble	Fox
Biggert	Cole (OK)	Franks (AZ)
Bilirakis	Conaway	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (UT)	Crenshaw	Gallegly
Blackburn	Cubin	Garrett (NJ)
Blunt	Culberson	Gerlach
Boehlert	Cunningham	Gibbons
Boehner	Davis (KY)	Gilchrest
Bonilla	Davis, Jo Ann	Gillmor
Bonner	Davis, Tom	Gingrey
Bono	Deal (GA)	Gohmert
Boozman	DeLay	Goode
Boustany	Dent	Goodlatte
Bradley (NH)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Granger
Brady (TX)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Graves
Brown (SC)	Doolittle	Green (WI)
Brown-Waite,	Drake	Gutknecht
Ginny	Dreier	Hall
Burgess	Duncan	Harris
Burton (IN)	Ehlers	Hart
Buyer	Emerson	Hastert

Hastings (WA)	Mack	Ramstad	Upton	Weller	Wilson (SC)	Lewis (GA)	Oberstar	Sherman
Hayes	Manzullo	Regula	Walsh	Westmoreland	Wolf	Lipinski	Obey	Skelton
Hayworth	Marchant	Rehberg	Wamp	Whitfield	Young (AK)	Lofgren, Zoe	Olver	Slaughter
Hefley	McCaul (TX)	Renzi	Weldon (FL)	Wicker		Lowe	Ortiz	Smith (WA)
Hensarling	McCotter	Reynolds	Weldon (PA)	Wilson (NM)		Lynch	Owens	Snyder
Herger	McCrery	Rogers (AL)				Maloney	Pallone	Solis
Hobson	McHenry	Rogers (KY)				Markey	Pascrell	Spratt
Hostettler	McHugh	Rogers (MI)	Abercrombie	Cooper	Grijalva	Marshall	Pastor	Stark
Hulshof	McKeon	Rohrabacher	Ackerman	Costa	Gutierrez	Matheson	Payne	Strickland
Hunter	McMorris	Ros-Lehtinen	Allen	Costello	Harman	Matsui	Pelosi	Stupak
Inglis (SC)	Mica	Royce	Andrews	Cramer	Hastings (FL)	McCarthy	Peterson (MN)	Tanner
Issa	Miller (FL)	Ryan (WI)	Baca	Crowley	Herse	McCollum (MN)	Pomeroy	Tauscher
Istook	Miller (MI)	Ryun (KS)	Baird	Cuellar	Higgins	McDermott	Price (NC)	Taylor (MS)
Jenkins	Miller, Gary	Saxton	Baldwin	Cummings	Hinche	McGovern	Rahall	Thompson (CA)
Jindal	Moran (KS)	Schmidt	Barrow	Davis (AL)	Hinojosa	McIntyre	Rangel	Thompson (MS)
Johnson (CT)	Murphy	Schwarz (MI)	Bean	Davis (CA)	Holden	McKinney	Reichert	Thompson
Johnson (IL)	Musgrave	Sensenbrenner	Becerra	Davis (FL)	Holt	McNulty	Reyes	Tierney
Johnson, Sam	Myrick	Sessions	Berkley	Davis (IL)	Honda	Meehan	Ross	Udall (CO)
Jones (NC)	Neugebauer	Shadegg	Berman	Davis (TN)	Hooley	Meek (FL)	Rothman	Udall (NM)
Keller	Ney	Shaw	Berry	DeFazio	Hoyer	Meeks (NY)	Roybal-Allard	Van Hollen
Kelly	Northup	Shays	Bishop (GA)	DeGette	Inslee	Melancon	Ruppersberger	Velázquez
Kennedy (MN)	Norwood	Sherwood	Bishop (NY)	DeLahunt	Israel	Menendez	Rush	Visclosky
King (IA)	Nunes	Shimkus	Blumenauer	DeLauro	Jackson (IL)	Michaud	Sabo	Wasserman
King (NY)	Nussle	Shuster	Boren	Dicks	Jackson-Lee	Millender-	Salazar	Schultz
Kingston	Osborne	Simmons	Boucher	Dingell	(TX)	McDonald	Sánchez, Linda	Waters
Kirk	Otter	Simpson	Boyd	Doggett	Jefferson	Miller (NC)	T.	Watson
Kline	Oxley	Smith (NJ)	Brady (PA)	Doyle	Johnson, E. B.	Miller, George	Sanchez, Loretta	Watt
Knollenberg	Paul	Smith (TX)	Brown (OH)	Edwards	Jones (OH)	Moore (KS)	Sanders	Waxman
Kolbe	Pearce	Sodrel	Brown, Corrine	Emanuel	Kanjorski	Moore (WI)	Schakowsky	Weiner
Kuhl (NY)	Pence	Souder	Butterfield	Eshoo	Kaptur	Moran (VA)	Schiff	Wexler
LaHood	Peterson (PA)	Stearns	Capps	Etheridge	Kennedy (RI)	Murtha	Schwartz (PA)	Woolsey
Latham	Petri	Sullivan	Capuano	Evans	Kildee	Nadler	Scott (GA)	Wu
LaTourette	Pickering	Sweeney	Cardoza	Farr	Kilpatrick (MI)	Napolitano	Scott (VA)	Wynn
Leach	Pitts	Tancred	Carnahan	Fattah	Kind	Neal (MA)	Serrano	
Lewis (CA)	Platts	Taylor (NC)	Carson	Filner	Kucinich			
Lewis (KY)	Poe	Terry	Case	Ford	Langevin			
Linder	Pombo	Thomas	Chandler	Frank (MA)	Lantos			
LoBiondo	Porter	Thornberry	Clay	Gonzalez	Larsen (WA)	Boswell	Hoekstra	Ryan (OH)
Lucas	Price (GA)	Tiahrt	Cleaver	Green, Al	Larson (CT)	Cardin	Hyde	Towns
Lungren, Daniel	Pryce (OH)	Tiberi	Clyburn	Green, Gene	Lee	Engel	Mollohan	Walden (OR)
E.	Putnam	Turner	Conyers		Levin	Fortenberry	Radanovich	Young (FL)

NAYS—198

NOT VOTING—12

NOTICE

***Incomplete record of House proceedings.
Today's House proceedings will be continued in Book II.***

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5266. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in supporting Plan Colombia, pursuant to Public Law 106-246, section 3204 (f) (114 Stat. 577); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5267. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General Robert H. Foglesong, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5268. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of the enclosed list of officers to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5269. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting written notification of the determination that a public health emergency exists and has existed in the state of Texas and Louisiana since September 20, 2005, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 247d(a) Public Law 107-188, section 144(a); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5270. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, DEA, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedules of

Controlled Substances; Placement of Pregabalin Into Schedule V [Docket No. DEA-267F] received September 2, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5271. A letter from the Senior Vice President, Policy & Government Affairs, Verizon Wireless, transmitting a letter from Denny Strigl, CEO of Verizon Wireless, provided to Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin Martin regarding the company's efforts to serve customers impacted by Hurricane Katrina; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5272. A letter from the Office of Independent Counsel, transmitting the annual report on Audit and Investigative Activities, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 595(a)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5273. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Reiterment Thrift Investment Board, transmitting a list of the five audit reports issued during fiscal year 2005 regarding the Agency and the Thrift Savings Plan; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5274. A letter from the General Counsel, Institute of Museum and Library Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5275. A letter from the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Letter to Chairman Cropp and Members of the Council of the District of Columbia on the Auditor's Concerns Regarding Matters that May Adversely Affect the Financial Operations of the Washington Convention Center."; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5276. A letter from the Office of the Special Counsel, transmitting the fiscal year 2005 re-

ports required by the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and the Inspector General Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5277. A letter from the Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Seventeenth Report of the Federal Absentee Voting Act; to the Committee on House Administration.

5278. A letter from the Acting Inspector General, House of Representatives, transmitting the final report on the U.S. House of Representatives Child Care Center; to the Committee on House Administration.

5279. A letter from the Acting Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Sabine-Neches Canal to Sabine River, Orange, TX [COTF Port Arthur-05-001] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5280. A letter from the Acting Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Napa River, California [COTF San Francisco Bay 05-001] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5281. A letter from the Acting Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Moving Safety Zone — Motor Vessel ZHEN HUA; San Francisco Bay, California [COTF San Francisco Bay 05-002] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5282. A letter from the Acting Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones for designated vessels; Savannah COTP Zone [COTP Savannah 04-065] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5283. A letter from the Acting Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Savannah River, Savannah, GA [COTP Savannah-05-011] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5284. A letter from the Acting Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Missouri River Mile Marker 731.5 to Mile Marker 731.9, South Sioux City, ONE [COTP St. Louis-04-047] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5285. A letter from the Acting Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River Mile Marker 203.0 to Mile Marker 205.0, Alton, IL [COTP St. Louis-05-002] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5286. A letter from the Acting Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Pensacola Caucus Channel and Pensacola Bay Channel, Pensacola, FL [COTP Mobile-04-060] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5287. A letter from the Acting Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Bayou Casotte Ship Channel, Horn Island Ship Channel, Pascagoula, MS [COTP Mobile-04-062] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5288. A letter from the Acting Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Mile 222 to Mile 225, Destin, FL [COTP Mobile-04-063] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5289. A letter from the Acting Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, Mile Marker 122.0 to Mile Marker 134.0, Above Head of Passes, Laplace, LA [COTP New Orleans-05-011] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5290. A letter from the Acting Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, Mile Marker 126.0 to Mile Marker 134.0, Above Head of Passes, Laplace, LA [COTP New Orleans-05-012] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5291. A letter from the Acting Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, Below Head of Passes, Mile Marker Minus 18.0 to

Mile Marker Minus 20.0, in the vicinity of the entrance to Southwest Pass, LA [COTP New Orleans-05-013] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5292. A letter from the Acting Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, Mile Marker 177.0 to Mile Marker 180.0, Above Head of Passes, Geismar, LA [COTP New Orleans-05-014] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5293. A letter from the Acting Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, Mile Marker 148.0 to Mile Marker 158.0, Above Head of Passes, Convent, LA [COTP New Orleans-05-015] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5294. A letter from the Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting the FY 2004 annual report on the Federal participation in the development and use of voluntary consensus standards, pursuant to Public Law 104-113, section 12(d)(3) (110 Stat. 783); to the Committee on Science.

5295. A letter from the Acting President & CEO, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual Management Report for FY 2004, Performance Budget for FY 2006, Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2004, and Report on Development and U.S. Effects on OPIC's FY 2004 projects and Report on Cooperation with Private Insurers, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; jointly to the Committees on Government Reform and International Relations.